

FULL
68 PAGES

NEW AMAZING STORIES



No.
44

Sinister TALES

1½

NO---NO!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
---THEY'RE PIRATES
DEAD OVER THREE
CENTURIES!

AN ANCIENT SEA
MYSTERY COMES TO
PULSING LIFE!
READ
*"The GOLDEN
DOOM!"*



WAS IT ONLY A WILD, SPECTACULAR LEGEND...OR UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH? DOWN THROUGH THE AGES IT HAS COME, THIS STRANGE TALE OF PIRACY AND A DEADLY CURSE! WATCH BILL MATTHEWS LEARN THE REAL AND THRILLING STORY OF...

The GOLDEN DOOM!

STORY: JAMES R. THOMPSON
ART: OGDEN WHITNEY



THE OFFICE OF DR. DREW COMPTON, PSYCHIATRIST...

THAT'S RIGHT... THE HOSPITAL JUST RELEASED ME! THEY CALLED ME DISTURBED, AND SUGGESTED THAT I COME TO YOU! I--I KEEP ON WONDERING IF I COULD BE INSANE...

NOW, NOW! SUPPOSING WE STEP INSIDE WHERE YOU CAN RELAX... AND TELL ME THE WHOLE STORY!

AT PRESENT, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR YOUTH OR EARLY LIFE! JUST TELL ME WHAT LED TO YOUR PRESENT CONDITION... TO THESE "DELUSIONS" THE HOSPITAL SAYS YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM!

I'LL START AT THE BEGINNING... AT LEAST, WHAT I THINK IS THE BEGINNING!

"I WAS IN THE MARINE SALVAGE BUSINESS BEFORE THE WAR--AND I WORKED PRETTY DAMNED HARD AT IT..."

THAT'S THE THIRD LINE WHICH HAS PARTED! THIS IS A TOUGH JOB!

CONFOUND IT, YOU WORK HARD AND WIND UP WITH PRACTICALLY NOTHING... BUT IT'S THE ONLY BUSINESS I KNOW!



"BUT SOON I LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE---HOW TO BE A SOLDIER AND FIGHT FOR MY LIFE! IF IT WAS ACTION I WAS LOOKING FOR, THE SECOND WORLD WAR SURE PROVIDED IT..."



"BUT WHEN THERE WAS NO FIGHTING, WE DID WHAT G.I.'S EVERYWHERE WERE DOING---TALKING...PLANNING WHAT WE WOULD DO WHEN HOSTILITIES CEASED! MY BUDDY WAS GREG ANDERSON..."

I KNOW ALL ABOUT SALVAGE AND SHIPS, AND I'VE SAVED SOME DOUGH! I'M GOING TO GO INTO SOMETHING THAT HAS ADVENTURE IN IT---AND A CHANCE TO CLEAN UP BIG! HUNT SUNKEN TREASURE, THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO--- BUT I HAVEN'T GOT QUITE ENOUGH CAPITAL YET!

LET ME COME IN WITH YOU, BILL! I'VE GOT THE MONEY MY UNCLE LEFT ME! WE COULD SWING IT BETWEEN US... AND YOU COULD TEACH ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW...



WHY DIDN'T I STOP HIM RIGHT THERE AND THEN? WHY'D I LET THAT POOR GUY COME IN--- AND OPEN THE WAY FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? OH, IT WAS MY FAULT, MINE...MINE!

YOU'RE EXCITING YOURSELF TOO MUCH, MR. MATTHEWS! SUPPOSE YOU GO HOME, AND RELAX! YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR STORY TOMORROW, WHEN YOU'RE CALMER!

NEXT DAY, BILL MATTHEWS SEEMED MORE AT EASE...

WHERE WAS I?...OH, YES...I TOOK POOR GREG'S MONEY, ADDED IT TO MINE AND WE HAD ENOUGH FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT ON THE DAVY JONES, A FAST, MODERN TREASURE-HUNTER! SHE'D BEEN OWNED BY LEO GRIMES, A VETERAN OF YEARS IN THE BUSINESS...



WELL, SHE'S YOURS NOW! THERE'S A PRETTY FAIR LIVING IN THIS SUNKEN TREASURE RACKET, BUT IT'S HARD WORK, SOMETIMES DANGEROUS! I JUST FELT I OUGHTA WARN YOU WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME TO BACK OUT!

WHY WOULD WE WANT TO DO THAT, GRIMES?



OH, I DUNNO---TROUBLE WITH MOST FELLAS WHO GO INTO THIS LINE IS THEY THINK THEY CAN WALTZ RIGHT IN AND COME UP WITH THAT RICH OLD PILE OF SWAG CALLED THE GOLDEN DOOM!

GOLDEN DOOM! HEY, WE'RE NOT GONNA LET YOU LEAVE THIS SHIP BEFORE YOU TELL US WHAT THAT ONE'S ALL ABOUT!



"OKAY! THE WAY IT WAS TOLD TO ME, THE OLD YARN STARTED BACK IN THE YEAR 1637 IN THE SPANISH MAIN, ABOARD THE SHIP MERMAID...CAP'TN JOHN DUFRESNE COMMANDING..."



HEAR ME, MEN!

OUR MISERLY OWNERS SEND US OUT TO PLY THE SEAS WITH WRETCHED FOOD, AT MISERABLE WAGES! WHAT HAVE WE TO LOOK FORWARD TO BUT AN OLD AGE OF POVERTY? BUT ONE THING'S IN OUR FAVOR---THE MERMAID IS A WELL-FOUND VESSEL, STRONGLY-ARMED AND SPEEDY!





BUT THE MERCHANTMAN THUNDERED BACK--ITS GUNS SCORING REPEATEDLY--

SHE'S HOLDING US OFF! MAYBE WE'D BETTER LET HER GO...

NO VESSEL HAS EVER OUTFOUGHT THE **MERMAID**! BEAR DOWN ON HER--EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SAIL RIGHT INTO HER FIRE! WE'VE GOT TO BOARD HER!



AT TERRIFIC COST, THEY SAILED INTO THE BLISTERING FIRE--UNTIL--



IT WAS A HARD, HAND-TO-HAND BATTLE--BUT FINALLY THE SHIP WAS TAKEN--

IT'S THE GREATEST TREASURE HAIL IN HISTORY, CAPTAIN--THOSE CHESTS ARE LOADED WITH GOLD! WHAT DO YOU WANT DONE WITH THE CREW AND PASSENGERS?

THE **MERMAID** WILL BE TOO HEAVILY LADEN TO BOTHER WITH THEM! PUT THE SHIP TO THE TORCH FOR HAVING DARED RESIST US SO! THEY CAN TAKE TO THEIR SMALL BOATS--AND IF THEY NEVER MAKE SHORE, THAT'S **THEIR** HARD LUCK!



AND SO--



AS THE **MERMAID SAILED AWAY FROM THE DOOMED VESSEL--**

THERE THEY GO--ABANDONING US TO THE SEAS!

HUMAN BEINGS WHO NEVER HURT THEM--AND THEY DID THIS TERRIBLE DEED FOR GOLD!



IT WAS THEN THAT THE CURSE CAME TO PASS--A CURSE DESTINED TO LIVE THROUGH THE CENTURIES--

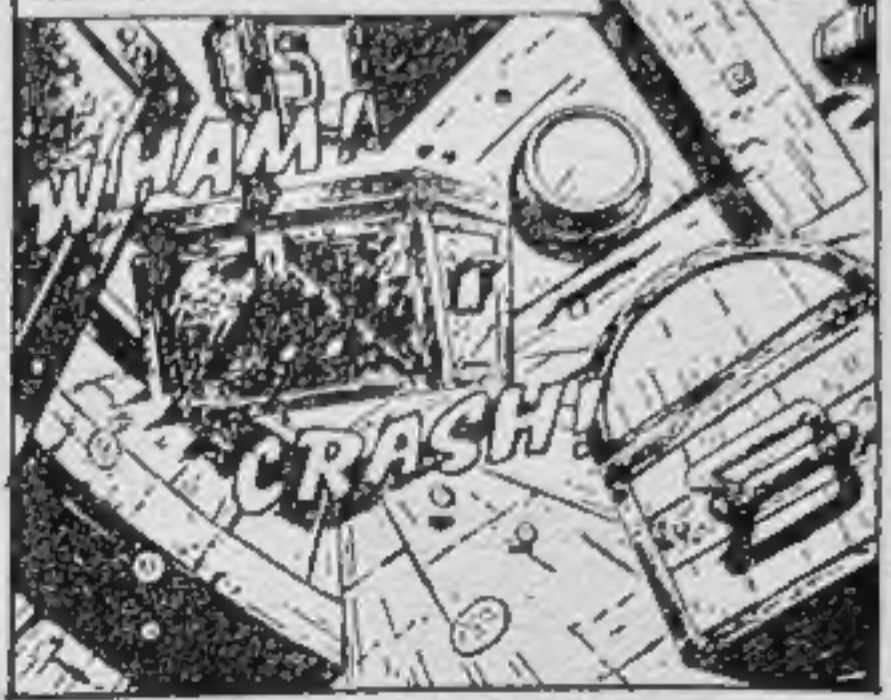
IT WAS A DEVILISH TRADE--THE TREASURE TROVE FOR OUR LIVES! MAY NEITHER JOY NOR GOOD FORTUNE EVER COME TO THEM FROM IT! MAY IT ALWAYS PROVE A **GOLDEN DOOM**, BRINGING **TRAGEDY** TO WHOMEVER TRIES TO GAIN IT!



THE CURSE SEEMED TO WORK FROM THE START! FOR THE HEAVILY-LADEN MERMAID, RIDING LOW IN THE WATER, RAN HEADLONG INTO A TERRIFIC STORM...



IN THE HOLD, THE HUGE TREASURE CHESTS WERE FLUNG AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE SHIP...ALREADY WEAKENED FROM THE CANNONADE!



THE SHIP'S SPRUNG A LEAK IN HER HOLD, CAP'N! WE'VE GOT TO...

NO TIME FOR THAT...WE'VE GOT ALL WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW TO FIGHT THE STORM!



WHEN THE GALE FINALLY DIED DOWN, THE MERMAID RODE ALARMINELY LOW IN THE SEA...

THE WATER'S CREEPING UP IN THE HOLD...IT LOOKS BAD!

OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO LIGHTEN THE SHIP! WE...WE'VE GOT TO THROW THOSE CHESTS OF GOLD OVERBOARD...THERE'S NO CHOICE!



NEVER! NOT WHEN WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO THE ISLAND AND LIVE LIKE KINGS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES ON THAT GOLD!

LOWER AND LOWER RODE THE MERMAID AS THEY HEADED FOR THEIR ISLAND HARBOR! AND THE CREW'S PANIC GREW! "THROW THE GOLD OVER AND SAVE US!" THEY BEGGED... BUT INSTEAD...

WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT, I TELL YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO...

YOU DARE TELL ME WHAT TO DO, DOG?



LOOK! THERE'S OUR ISLAND ON THE HORIZON...WHERE WE CAN MAKE REPAIRS AND DIVIDE THE SWAG! I KNEW WE'D MAKE IT!



BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT THAT WAY! WITH A SAFE ANCHORAGE JUST AHEAD, A SHIVER RAN THROUGH THE SHIP! THEN IT TILTED...PLUNGED DOWNWARD...AS THE CURSE OF THE GOLDEN DOOM HIT HOME!



HAAM... I CAN SEE NOW WHY YOU'VE BEEN SO DISTURBED, WITH ALL THESE VISIONS OF VIOLENCE PREYING ON YOUR MIND! HADN'T YOU BETTER CALL IT A DAY?

NO... LET ME... LET ME GET IT ALL OFF MY CHEST! JUST A FEW PIRATES SURVIVED... ENOUGH TO SPREAD THE LEGEND OF THE **GOLDEN DOOM**... THE TREASURE THAT LAY BENEATH THE SURFACE, AWAITING ANYONE WHO DARED TRY FOR IT!



AND OVER THE CENTURIES, MANY TREASURE HUNTERS MADE THEIR TRIES... ALL OF WHICH BROUGHT TRAGEDY! ONE OF THEM WAS DESTROYED BY A SUDDEN STORM JUST ABOVE THE LOCATION OF THE HOARD...



YES, SHE'D FALLEN PREY TO THE **GOLDEN DOOM**! SO DID OTHERS...



FOUR YEARS AGO, THERE WAS THE TREASURE HUNTER **S.S. EUREKA**! SHE HAD RADIO AND IT WAS A FAIR DRY... BUT THIS IS ALL THEY FOUND OF HER...



I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, MR. MATTHEWS... A MAN OF EDUCATION AND INTELLIGENCE, BEING TAKEN IN BY THESE **LEGENDS**... AND BECOMING EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED ABOUT THEM!

DOC, THEY AREN'T WHAT DISTURBED ME! IT'S WHAT I SAW AND LIVED THROUGH MYSELF! IT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME—AND HEAVEN HELP ME, WHAT I BROUGHT UPON MY FRIEND GRUB!



WE DIDN'T BELIEVE THOSE STORIES ABOUT THE **GOLDEN DOOM** FOR ONE SECOND! WE HAD COURAGE, MODERN EQUIPMENT... WE KNEW APPROXIMATELY WHERE THE **MERMAID** HAD GONE DOWN...

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE'RE IN THE RIGHT SPOT...

GOOD HEAVENS, BILL... LOOK AT OUR SHIP!



THERE WAS THE DAVY JONES, AT ANCHOR NEARBY-- AND LIT BY A SHIMMERING, MYSTERIOUS GLOW--AS IF THE GOLDEN DOOM ITSELF WAS SETTLING ITS BALEFUL INFLUENCE OVER IT!

WHAT'S CAUSING IT? IT ...IT'S SCARY! M-MAYBE WE'RE BEING WARNED ABOUT SOMETHING!

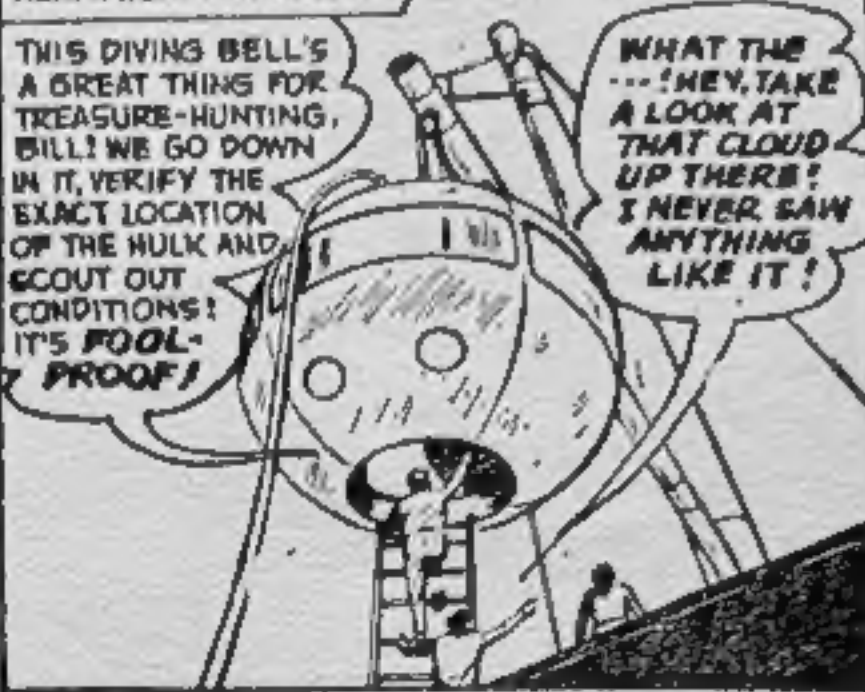
IF YOU THINK THAT'S GOING TO FRIGHTEN ME OFF, GREG, YOU'RE WRONG!



NO, I WASN'T GOING TO BE SCARED--NOT WHEN I SENSED SO SURELY THAT THE HUGE TREASURE WAS NEAR! NEXT MORNING...

THIS DIVING BELL'S A GREAT THING FOR TREASURE-HUNTING, BILL! WE GO DOWN IN IT, VERIFY THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE HULK AND SCOUT OUT CONDITIONS! IT'S FOOL-PROOF!

WHAT THE ...! HEY, TAKE A LOOK AT THAT CLOUD UP THERE! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!



THERE IT WAS IN THE SKIES ABOVE US--THE STRANGEST, MOST SINISTER CLOUD FORMATION EVER SEEN! IT WAS FASHIONED OF MIST, BUT IT WAS--

THE BIG SPHERE PLUNGED INTO THE SEA! DOWN AND DOWN IT SANK--

--AND CAME TO REST DIRECTLY ABOVE THE WRECKAGE OF THE OLD MERMAID!

...THE MERMAID HERSELF! I--I DON'T GET IT!

NONSENSE, GREG--IT'S JUST AN ACCIDENTAL CLOUD FORMATION! COME ON--WE'VE GOT A DIVING JOB TO DO!

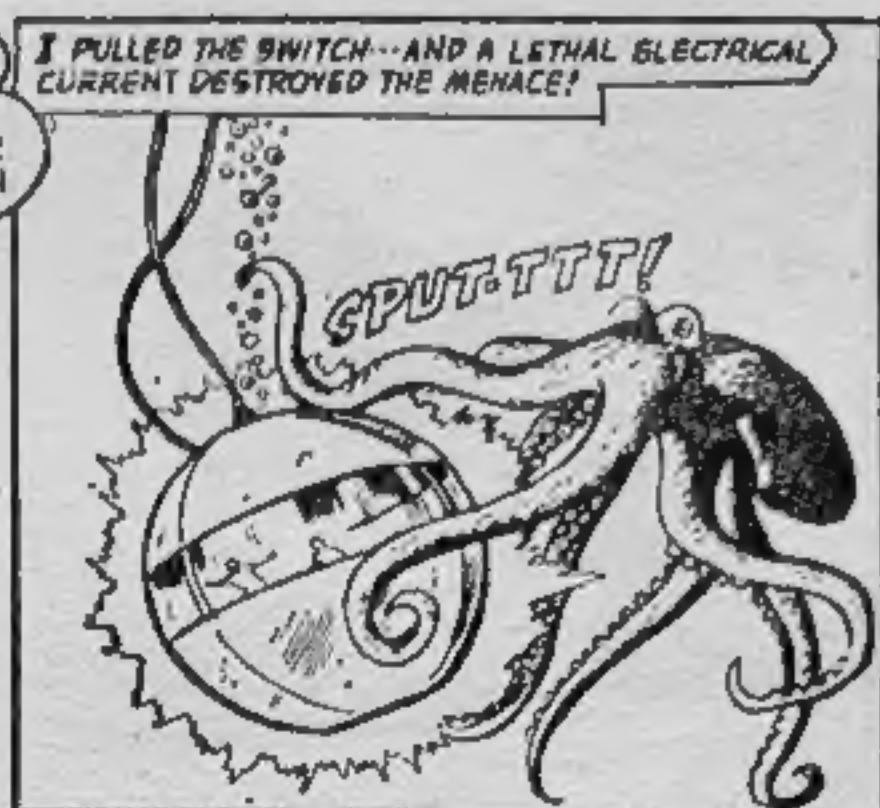


BUT NEXT MOMENT CAME DEADLY PERIL!

IT--IT'S AN OCTOPUS--THE BIGGEST I EVER SAW!

HOVERING OVER THE DIVING BELL, IT SEIZED IT IN A GRIP OF MONSTROUS STRENGTH--





DESPERATELY, I LEAPED TO ONE SIDE--- BUT SOMETHING SEEMED TO HIT ME WITH A STUNNING IMPACT---

OH-HHHH!



PAINFULLY, I PULLED MYSELF FROM UNDER THE CRUSHING WEIGHT THAT PINNED ME DOWN---AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW WHAT IT WAS---

IT---IT WAS ONLY THE SHIP'S FIGUREHEAD---AND THE SEA DISTORTED IT, GAVE IT A MOTION THAT I THOUGHT WAS REAL! I'M LUCKY---IT DIDN'T KILL ME!



GREG! HE'S PINNED DOWN, UNCONSCIOUS! I'VE GOT TO--- GET HIM OUT---



GOT TO GET HIM TOPSIDE---HE SEEMS TO BE HURT BAD!



I MANAGED TO DRAG HIM THROUGH THE LOCK AND INTO THE DIVING BELL---WHERE I MADE A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY!

OH, NO, NO! HE---HE'S DEAD!



NOW, NOW, MR. MATTHEWS, THAT'S ENOUGH! I THINK YOU'VE HAD PLENTY FOR THIS TIME!

BUT I CAN'T STOP! I---I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU THE REST ---NOW!



IT WAS THE GREATEST SHOCK I'D EVER HAD... I GUESS I ALMOST PASSED OUT! WHAT STOPPED ME WAS THE SOUND OF MELLOW LAUGHTER! I LOOKED UP... AND YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT I SAW!

I... I MUST BE DREAMING THIS! IT'S CAPTAIN DUFFRENE... AND HIS PIRATE CREW!

NEXT MOMENT IT WAS ALMOST AS IF THEY'D OozED THROUGH THE WALLS... FOR THEY WERE INSIDE THE DIVING BELL... ATTACKING!

NO... GET BACK...

I WAS WEAK IN A PANIC... HOW COULD I DEFEND MYSELF? I PICKED UP THE FIRST THING AT HAND AND WHILED IT AT CAPTAIN DUFFRENE...

CRASH!

AND THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER, I WAS BACK ON THE DECK OF THE BAWDY JONES... SAFE...

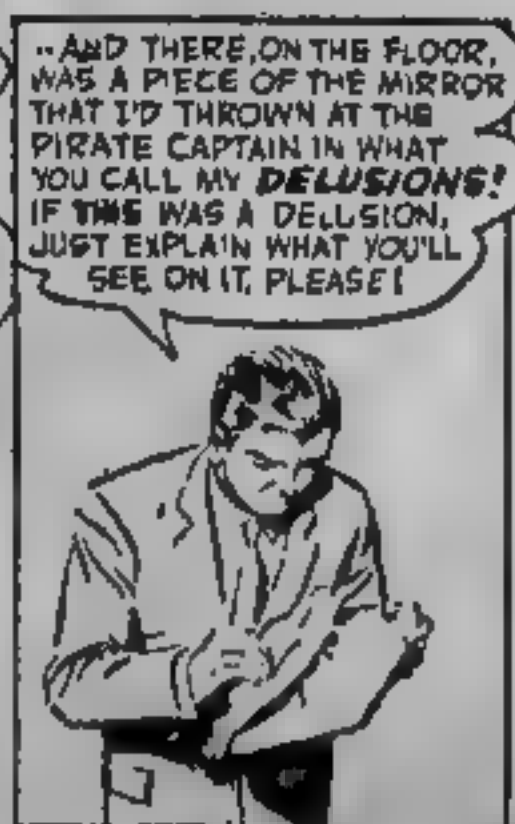
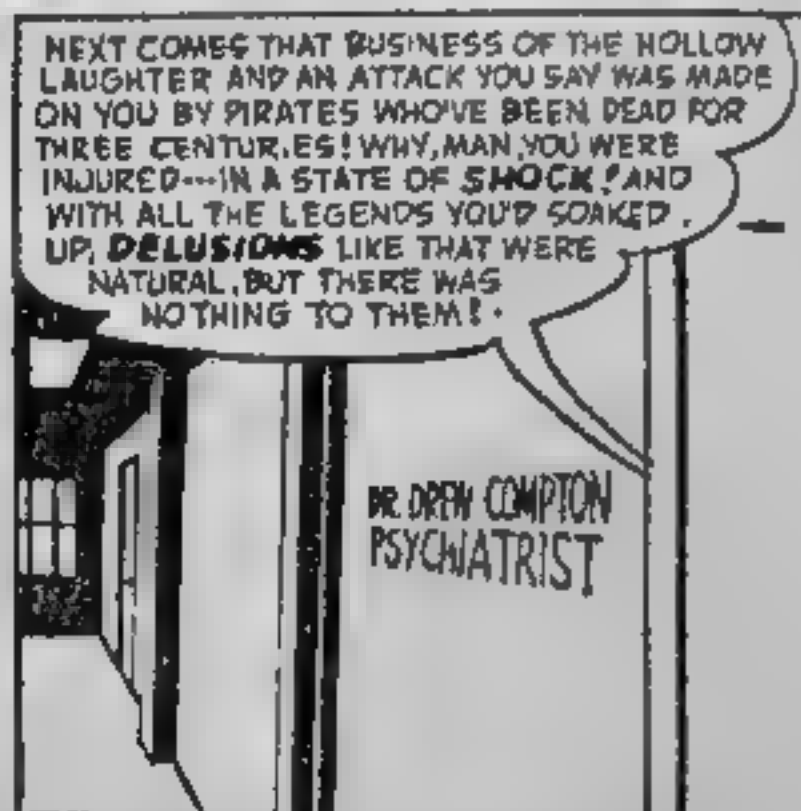
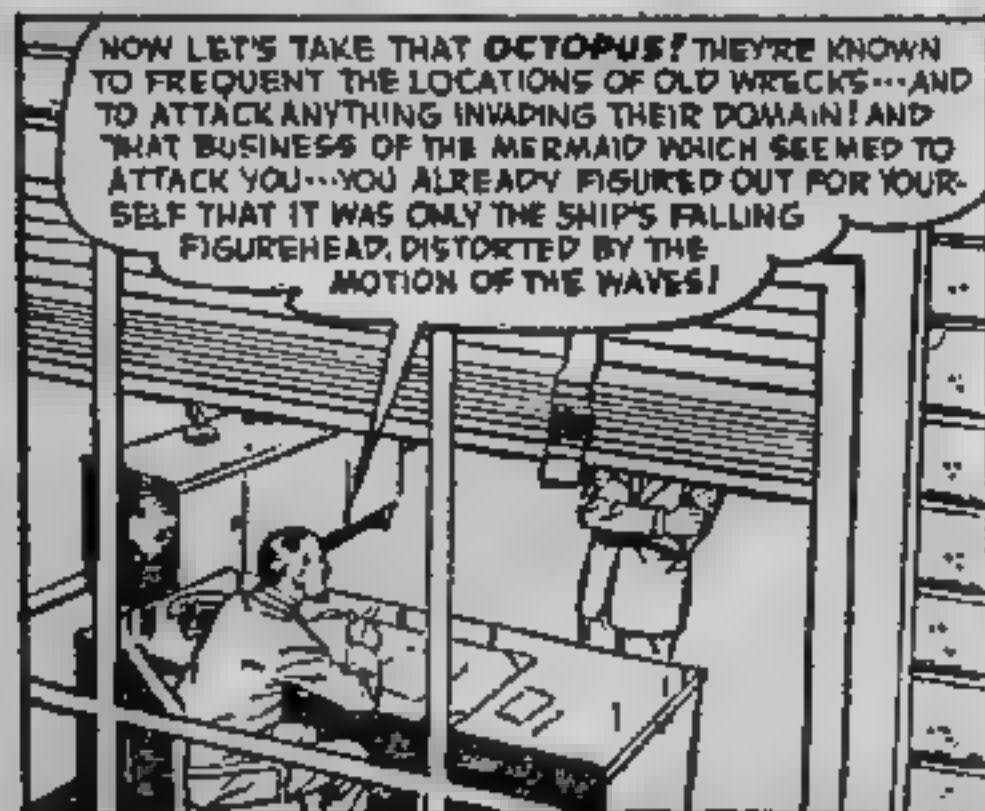
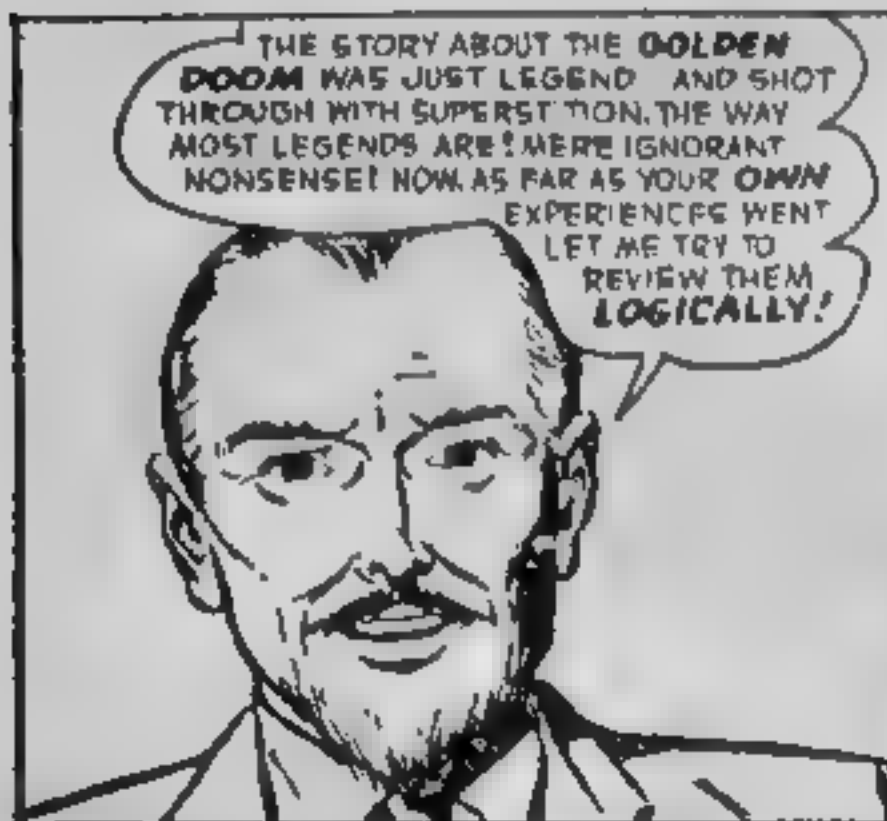
HE'S COMING AROUND THANK HEAVENS!

DID YOU GET -- THE TREASURE? WE FASTENED IT TO THE CHAIN -- BELOW THE DIVING BELL --

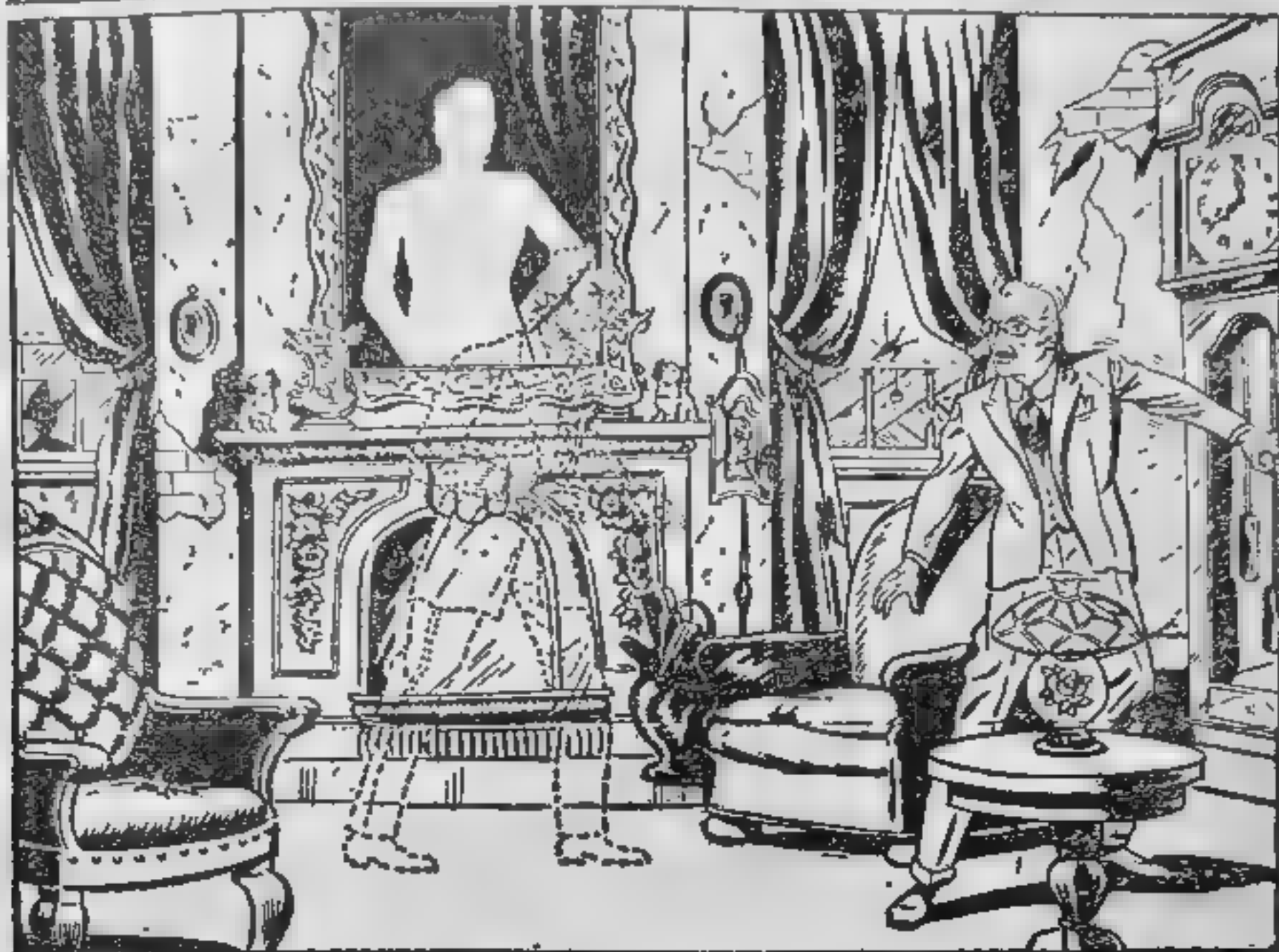
WHAT TREASURE? TAKE A LOOK!

THAT'S THE STORY... I... I CAN'T FORGET IT! THAT TREASURE WAS THE GOLDEN DOOM -- AND IT WAS POOR GREG'S DOOM! OH, IF ONLY I HADN'T GONE AFTER IT -- IF ONLY I HADN'T TAKEN GREG WITH ME --

YOU'VE GOT TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND LISTEN TO ME, MR. MATTHEWS! LISTEN TO THE TRUTH!



BACK to YESTERDAY!



25TH STARTED THE NIGHT OF SAMUEL COULTER'S 10TH BIRTHDAY--

YOUR TEA AND YOUR NEWS-PAPER, MR. SAMUEL!

IT'S THE LAST TIME, ELSIE! YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN GOOD TO STAY WITH ME FOR SO LONG WITHOUT PAY!

I HATE TO LEAVE YOU, GIR--

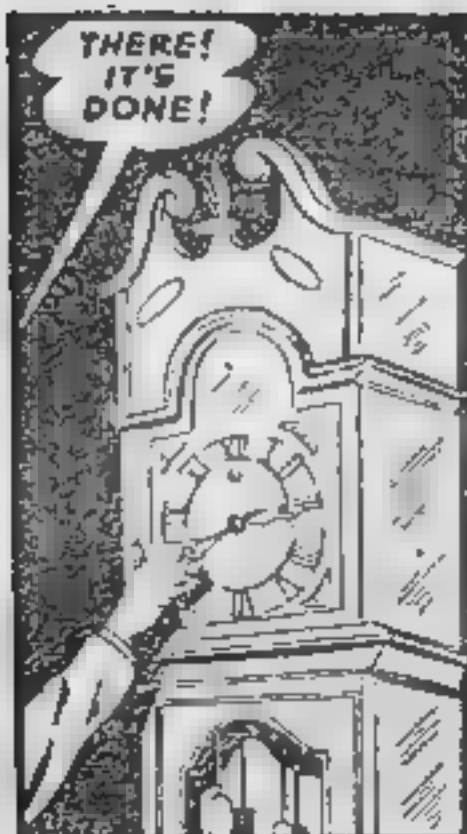
IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR YOU TO STAY ON WITH ME, AN OLD, USE-LESS MAN! YOU'RE ALL PACKED?

YES, MR. SAMUEL-- MY NIECE IS WAITING FOR ME! GOODBYE, GIR! PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOURSELF!

I CHALL, ELSIE, I CHALL! BE SURE THE BACK DOOR IS LOCKED WHEN YOU LEAVE! THE RINGS ARE NOT VERY SECURE, I'M AFRAID --LIKE EVERY-THING IN THIS HOUSE!







THERE!
IT'S
DONE!



I...FEEL WEAK...GOT TO HAVE
REST! TOMORROW, THAT'S IT -
MAYBE I'LL FEEL
STRONGER THEN.



BUT NEXT MORNING, SAMUEL FOUND HIS SENSE
OF MELANCHOLY STRANGELY DISAPPEARED!

WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY! WHY
I FEEL HEALTHY, STRONG...**GLAD**
TO BE ALIVE! WHATEVER
COULD HAVE HAPPENED?



AND THEN...A NEW DISCOVERY!

GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK: IT NEVER MADE
SO MUCH NOISE BEFORE...**PROFOUND!**
THE HANDS ARE RUNNING **COUNTER-**
CLOCKWISE! SOMETHING WENT
WRONG WHEN I TURNED IT BACK
LAST NIGHT!



SOMETHING WRONG? IT COULDN'T BE THE NEW-FOUND
AMBITION THAT FLOODED THROUGH HIM--THAT SENT HIM
TO HIS EASEL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS!

STRANGE! MY HAIR DOESN'T
SEEM AS WHITE AS USUAL...AND
MY FACE APPEARS FULLER!



AND THEN AT LUNCH ANOTHER
STRANGE DEVELOPMENT!

I--I JUST CAN'T
BELIEVE IT! I
MUST SEE DR.
ROSS!



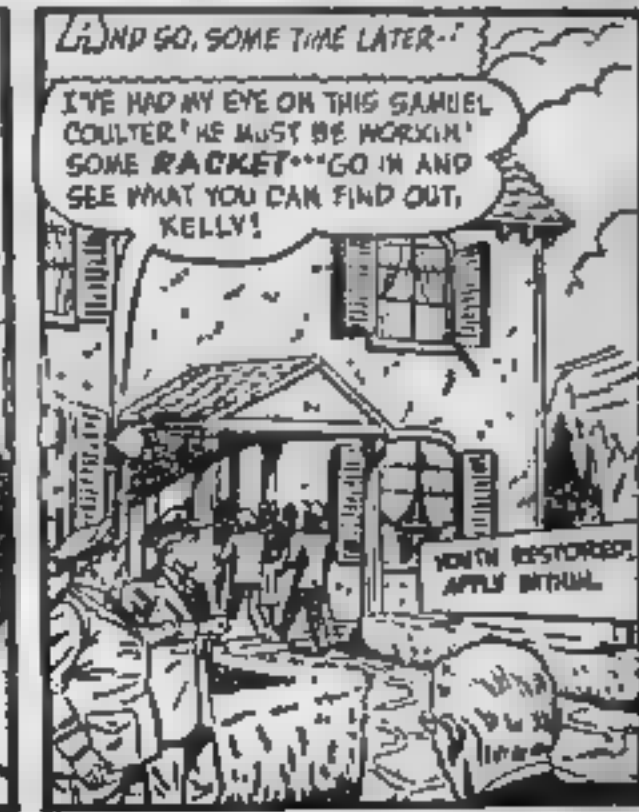
YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. COULTER...
THIS IS THE MOST EXTRA-
ORDINARY THING I'VE
SEEN IN ALL MY YEARS
OF PRACTICE! YOUR
TEETH ARE GROW-
ING BACK!



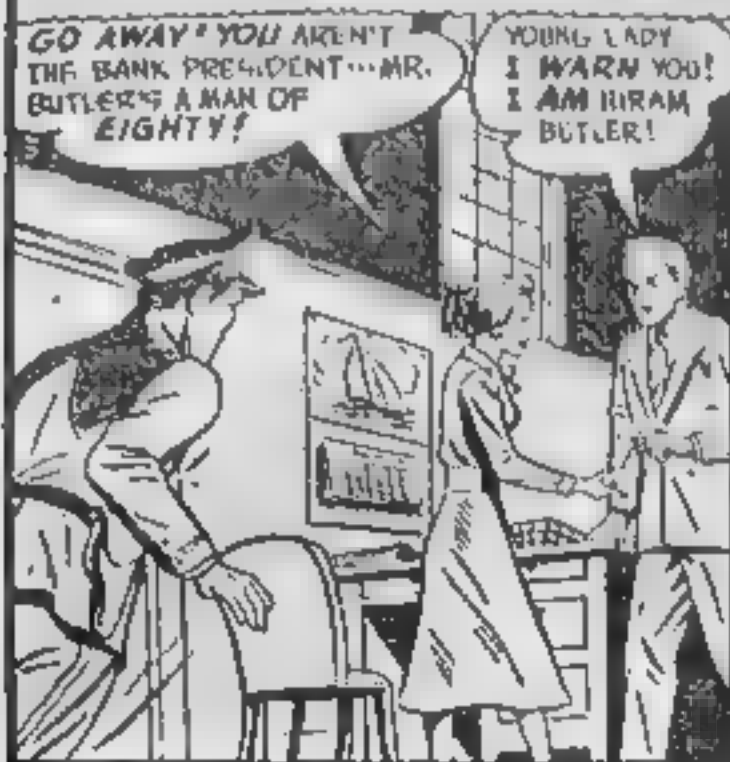
THE NEXT STOP WAS A PHYSICIAN'S
OFFICE, WHERE...

SEVENTY YEARS
OLD! INCREDIBLE!
WHY, MR. COULTER, YOU
HAVE THE CONSTITUTION
OF A MAN OF
FORTY!

I DON'T BE-
LIEVE I NEED
THESE GLASSES
...HAHAHA, WHAT A
PRETTY
GIRL!



LAST FIRST, SAMUEL'S YOUTH TREATMENTS CREATED FRENZIED ENTHUSIASM! BUT BEFORE LONG CAME... TROUBLE!



GO AWAY! YOU AREN'T THE BANK PRESIDENT...MR. BUTLER'S A MAN OF EIGHTY!

YOUNG LADY I WARN YOU! I AM HIRAM BUTLER!

YOU FOOLS! I HAVE AN OPERATION SCHEDULED!

THE NERVE OF THAT GUY - SAYING HE'S DR. HARRIS THE FAMOUS SURGEON! AND DR. HARRIS IN HIS SEVENTIES, AND BALD AS AN EAGLE!

WHAT'S THAT A CROWD OF YOUNG MEN RIOTING OUTSIDE SAMUEL COULTER'S HOUSE?

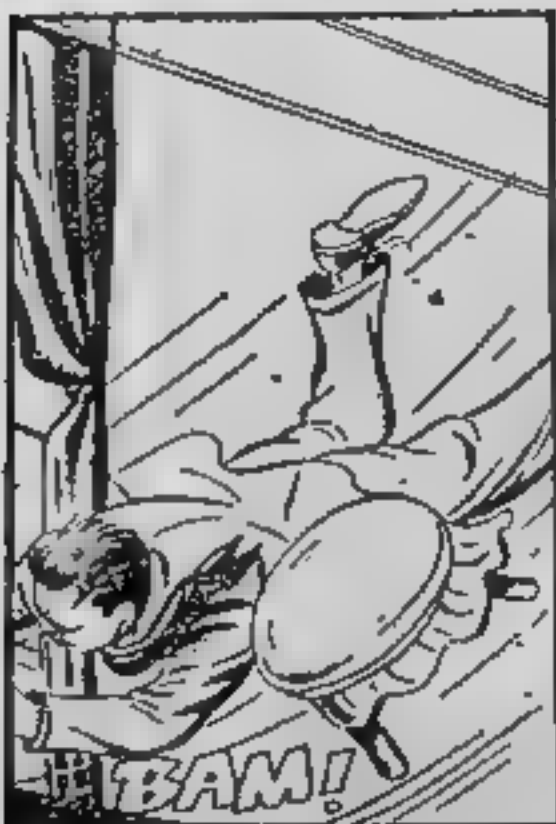


I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY WERE YOUNG MEN! WHY, THEY'RE KIDS...TEEN-AGERS!

THEY WERE IN THEIR TWENTIES WHEN I WENT TO CALL YOU, CAPTAIN! BUT WHILE I WAS GONE, THESE TEEN AGERS MUSTA TAKEN THEIR PLACE!



THEY'RE GETTING YOUNGER FASTER AND FASTER... AS I AM!...THE CLOCK! I MUST STOP IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



GREAT SHAMROCKS, CAPTAIN! THEM TEEN-AGERS! THEY'VE TURNED INTO KIDDIES!

GET HOLD OF SAMUEL COULTER! IT'S MAGIC HE MUST BE WORKING... UNHOLY MAGIC!

COULTER AIN'T HERE! SEARCH THE HOUSE FOR HIM... I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS BABY!





TICK-TOCK --
TICK-TOCK --

WANT TO SEE
THE PRETTY
CLOCK, BABY?



HEY! STOP THAT,
YOU LITTLE HOODLUM!
YOU'LL BREAK THE

CRASH!



SAIN'TS PRESERVE US! NOW'D
NOW'D THIS OLD GUY
GIT IN ME ARMS?



YOU'RE SAMUEL COULTER!
WELL BY JINGO YOU'RE
UNDER ARREST!



THANK GOODNESS! I'M
OLD --- JUST AS I WAS!
I NEVER WANT TO BE
YOUNG AGAIN!

I WAS
IN TIME!

PRaise BE
WE'VE BEEN
SAVED!



THE MAD RECESSION OF THE
YEARS HAD BEEN STOPPED ---
EVERYTHING HAD RETURNED
TO NORMAL --- EXCEPT ---

ALL THIS MONEY --- THE
DONATIONS THEY'D PRESSED
ON ME FOR RESTORING
THEIR YOUTH!
IT'S MINE!
MINE TO DO
GOOD
WITH!



LATER ---

THE SECOND CHANCE
-- A PLACE WHERE OLD
FOLKS CAN FORGET
THEIR WORRIES AND
BE HAPPY!
COME IN!
EVERYTHING IS
FREE!



THANK YOU, GRANDFATHER FOR MY SECOND CHANCE
TO MAKE MY LIFE **USEFUL** BY MAKING ALL THESE
OLD PEOPLE HAPPY! AND FOR MAKING **ME**
HAPPY, TOO --- **HAPPIER** THAN I'VE
EVER BEEN!

ARE YOU A SOCIAL OUTCAST? DO YOU LIVE A LIFE OF SECLUSION OF LOVELESSNESS AND FRUSTRATION? DO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT IT BAD? THEN PAUSE FOR A MOMENT TO READ ABOUT...

THE LONELY LIFE OF HOMER HERGIS!

STORY:
GREG
OLIVETTI
ART:
PETE
COSTANZA

KAR, A... IF I
COULD ONLY
REACH YOU,
BE NEAR
YOU!

SOME DAY, HOMER,
MY LOVE, SOME DAY
YOU'LL REACH
ACROSS THE
CENTURIES AND
JOIN ME HERE
IN THE YEAR
20,000!



HOMER HERGIS IS A QUIET, RETIRING LITTLE MAN WHO IS QUITE CONTENT TO WORK ALL DAY AT HIS ADDING MACHINE---

HOMER, CHECK THESE FIGURES BEFORE YOU GO HOME. I HATE TO KEEP YOU HERE AFTER HOURS, BUT IT HAS TO BE DONE.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. I DON'T MIND WORKING LATER. THERE'S NOBODY WAITING AT HOME FOR ME ANYHOW.



BUT THOUGH HOMER IS A LONELY AND FORSAKEN LITTLE MAN, SOMETIMES A VISITOR RECOGNIZES HIM---

EXCUSE ME, BUT AREN'T YOU HOMER HERGIS--THE FELLOW WHO USED TO BE A FAMOUS INVENTOR?



INVENTOR? I THOUGHT EVERYONE HAD FORGOTTEN. IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO!

YES, HOMER HERGIS HADN'T ALWAYS BEEN A CLERK. LONG YEARS AGO, THE WORLD HAD KNOWN HIM AS AN ELECTRONIC'S WIZARD---

GOOD NEWS, HOMER, YOU'VE JUST WON THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AWARD, FOR THAT RADIO BEAM CAMERA THAT PHOTOGRAPHED THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON!



HAS A LITTLE GADGET I'R GGED UP IN MY SPARE TIME.

BUT THOUGH SCIENTIFIC RECOGNITION CAME EASILY TO HOMER, THERE WAS ANOTHER KIND OF RECOGNITION HE DESIRED EVEN MORE --

MISS ALLEN, I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER YOUR WORK HERE AT THE LAB. I WONDER IF YOU'D HAVE DINNER WITH ME?

WITH YOU? EXCUSE ME FOR LAUGHING, BUT WHEN I DATE IT'S WITH A MAN--NOT A SAVED-OFF TWO BY NOTHING!

WOMEN ALWAYS REJECTED HIS ADVANCES! BUT THOUGH HOMER WAS REALIST ENOUGH TO SEE HIMSELF FOR WHAT HE WAS, STILL THE SCARS ON HIS PRIDE DID NOT HEAL EASILY.

IT'S MY APPEARANCE, I KNOW, IF ONLY I WASN'T SUCH A RUNT! BUT SOME DAY, PERHAPS, WOMEN WILL LEARN TO APPRECIATE A MAN FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST TALLNESS AND A HANDSOME FACE.

SOME DAY WOMEN WILL LEARN TO ADMIRE A MAN FOR HIS CHARACTER --FOR HIS MIND! AH, IF I COULD ONLY SEE THAT DAY--SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!

IF ONLY HE COULD LOOK INTO THAT WONDROUS FUTURE! THE VERY IDEA INTRIGUED HIM. WITH HIS SKILL AT ELECTRONICS, HOMER BEGAN TO DEVISE AN ELECTRONIC SCANNER WHICH COULD PEER INTO THE FUTURE--

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE ELECTRONIC CALCULATORS THAT CAN PREDICT SOLUTIONS TO MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS. PEERING INTO THE FUTURE IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF PREDICTION!

BEFORE LONG THE DEVICE WAS COMPLETE--

I'LL SET THE SCANNER FOR THE YEAR 20,000! IT'S RIGGED TO HOOK INTO ANY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM THEY MAY HAVE THEN.

AS POWER SURGED THROUGH THE CIRCUIT, THE SCANNER BEAM LEAPED ACROSS THE ABYSS OF TIME AND INTO THE FUTURE-- FOCUSING ON A WORLD NONE HAD EVER SEEN BEFORE --ON A FACE OF RAVISHING BEAUTY--

KARLA SPEAKING! I ANSWERED YOUR CALL ON THE VISI-SCREEN, BUT I DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOU. WHO ARE YOU, STRANGER?

MY NAME IS HOMER HERSHIS! LISTEN CLOSELY, KARLA--AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND--

SWIFTLY HE TOLD HIS STORY. KARLA'S REACTION WAS EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC...

A SCANNER THAT CAN REACH FORWARD 10 000 YEARS! WHY, THAT'S ASTOUNDING! NOT EVEN OUR SCIENTISTS OF TODAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF TIME TRAVEL!



IT WAS NOTHING, KARLA. JUST A DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWN SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES...

BUT KARLA'S ADMIRATION WAS FRANK AND OPEN...

YOU MUST NOT BE SO MODEST, HOMER. FRANKLY, I'VE NEVER MET A MAN LIKE YOU BEFORE... A MAN WITH SUCH A MAGNIFICENT MIND.

AND I'VE NEVER MET A WOMAN LIKE YOU! HERE IN MY WORLD, WOMEN RARELY ADMIRE A MAN FOR HIS INTELLECT.



BUT WOMEN HAVE CHANGED THROUGH THE CENTURIES, HOMER. IT IS THE MAN OF INTELLECT WE ADMIRE IN MY WORLD!



AND A SPLENDID WORLD IT MUST BE WITH WOMEN OF YOUR GRACE AND BEAUTY TO ADORN IT, KARLA.

ENTRANCED BY WHAT HE HAD SEEN AND HEARD, HOMER KEPT IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH KARLA. SOON, HIS LONELINESS HAD VANISHED...

HOMER, I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED. I'VE MISSED YOU.

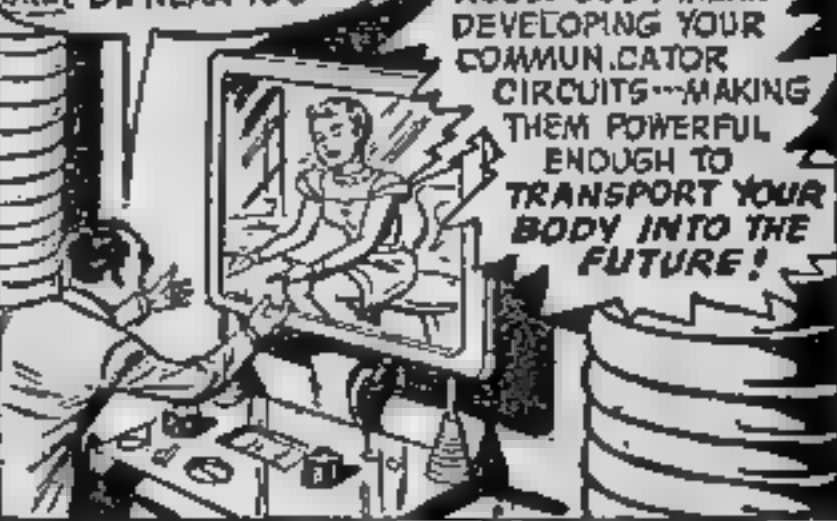
IT'S SWEET OF YOU TO SAY THAT, KARLA.



AND SOON THEIR FRIENDSHIP HAD RIPENED INTO A DEEPER AND WARMER EMOTION...

KARLA MY DARLING! TO SEE YOUR IMAGE... IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH ANYMORE. IF I COULD ONLY BE NEAR YOU...

OH MY DEAREST! YOU COULD DO IT... A MAN WITH YOUR BRAIN POWER! IT WOULD JUST MEAN DEVELOPING YOUR COMMUNICATOR CIRCUITS... MAKING THEM POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT YOUR BODY INTO THE FUTURE!



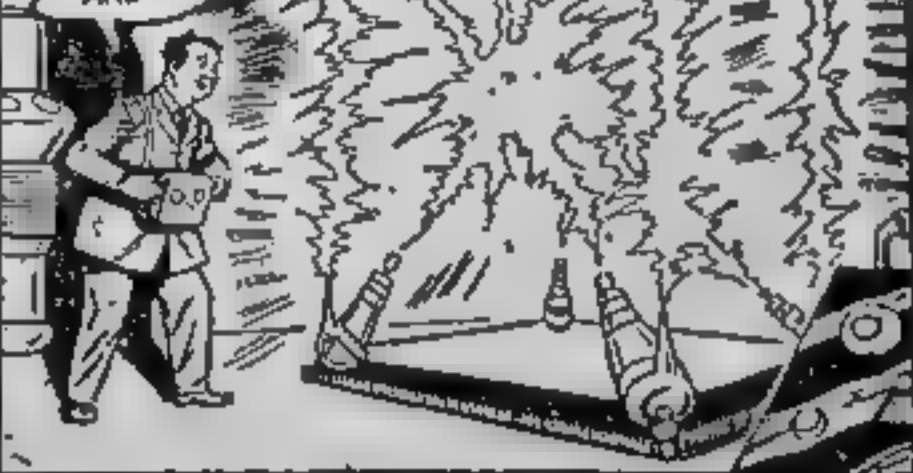
MY DEAREST, I KNOW I CAN DO IT. I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A NEW CIRCUIT, WORKING NIGHT AND DAY, AND BEFORE LONG...

HURRY, HURRY, MY SWEET. COME TO ME SOON!



IT WAS A MONTH LATER THAT HOMER FINISHED HIS ELECTRONIC TELEPORTER...

THIS IS IT! THE MOMENT FOR WHICH I'VE WORKED SO LONG! ONE STEP FORWARD INTO THE PROJECTOR FIELD AND...





A TENDER TALE OF LOVE



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

[illegible]

THAT IS KIND OF STEEP, MRS. FENLY, BUT UNDOUBTEDLY WORTH IT! I'LL TAKE THE ROOM.





AM MICK LOGAN! I WANT YOU TO MEET
A NEW MEMBER OF MY FAMILY - MRS.
JOYCE LOGAN, MR. AM BARNETT
YOU'LL FIND A VERY FRIENDLY
GENTLE, MR BARNETT

THERE'S A BUT OF LIKE TO START
IN THINKING LOGAN IS ONLY
EASY ON THE EYES BUT IT
WILL BE THE JEWELRY SHE'S
WEALTHY!

LESTER PLAYED HIS CARD WELL - WITHIN SEVERAL
WEEKS AND KIDS IN AM GAVE FRIENDS, ONE
EVENING AT THE HOUSE AT THE REAR OF THE HOUSE

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WE'VE KNOWN EACH
OTHER FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME, JOYCE! I'VE
GROWN VERY FOND OF YOU

I'VE ENJOYED YOUR
COMPANY, LESTER!



LESTER BARNETT HAD NO REAL INTEREST IN JOYCE EXCEPT FOR HER MONEY BUT THAT
FORTUNE SLIP FROM HIS GRASP...
WAS ENOUGH INCENTIVE TO MAKE HIM
GO TO GEORGE...

WITH JUST A LITTLE MORE PERSISTENCE, LESTER
WOULD HAVE GOT JOYCE LOGAN TO ACCEPT HIS PRO-
POSAL BUT A FEW EVENINGS LATER, LUCK
TURNED AGAINST HIM.

JOYCE I THINK I FELL IN
LOVE WITH YOU THE FIRST TIME
WE MET I WANT YOU TO MARRY
ME, DEAR

I'M SORRY,
LESTER YOU
SEE THERE'S
SOMEONE ELSE
ELSEWHERE AND I
HAVEN'T BEEN EACH
OTHER FOR SOME
TIME, BUT...

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU REALLY
LOVE EACH OTHER, BUT THE
WAY I LOVE YOU, JOYCE!
I'D NEVER LET YOU OUT
OF MY SIGHT, DARLING, I
CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT
YOU!

LESTER...I'LL NEED
A LITTLE TIME TO
THINK BUT I DO CARE
A GREAT DEAL FOR
YOU...

WHY GEORGE. WHAT
ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE
TO FIND ME?

I WAS CALLED
ON. MY FOUR
FRIENDS TO
TELL ME WHERE
YOU WERE. WE
CUT TO TALK
TO YOU MORE
PRIVATELY!



LESTER, FLUSHED WITH ANGER, WATCHED THEM GO OFF! A FEW SECONDS
LATER HE SPIED ON THEM IN THE GARDEN...
HIS EYES WELLED UP IN LESTER BARNETT AS HE SAW GEORGE
ROBERTS SLIP AN ENGAGEMENT RING ON JOYCE'S FINGER...

I'VE BEEN NEARLY FRANTIC WITH
WORRY I WANTED YOU TO KNOW
HOW I FELT THAT SILLY ARGUMENT
HE HAD WAS ALL MY FAULT! FORGIVE
ME, JOYCE YOU STILL LOVE ME, I
CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES!

I THOUGHT I'D
STOPPED CARING
FOR YOU, DARLING,
TILL YOU CAME IN
THERE TONIGHT! I
DO LOVE YOU, GEORGE,
VERY MUCH!

EVERYTHING WAS ALL SET TILL
THAT GUY BARRED IN! WELL, I'VE
PLANNED THINGS TOO CAREFULLY TO
LET A FORTUNE SLIP THRU MY FINGERS!
I'LL GET RID OF HIM!



GEORGE ROBERTS STAYED LATER THAN HE'D REALIZED, AND RATHER THAN
DRIVE TO HIS HOME A HUNDRED MILES AWAY HE STUCK TO HIS GROUND, THE
LANDLADY

LESTER WAITED UNTIL 2 A M BEFORE HE CALLED
IN AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHY OF COURSE I CAN PUT YOU UP
FOR THE NIGHT IN MY BROTHER'S ROOM
NINE ON THE SECOND FLOOR
UNLESS YOU WANT TO WANT TO
CONGRATULATE A VERY AMERICAN
TOLD ME THE WOULD BE A NEW

THE PROTEST IS GOING
TO BE AT THE NEW YORK
CONSULATE IN SEATTLE

I'LL BE QUICK AND QUIET!
 I'LL BE BACK IN MY ROOM
 A H E T M Y F I M I D P E
 I P A A R K W A N T E
 C H I D M Y W I F E A T E P E
 C H I D M Y W I F E A T E P E

A MOMENT LATER AN EERIE THING HAPPENED: A CHAIR, OF ITS OWN POWER, SLID SILENTLY ACROSS THE FLOOR, DIRECTLY IN LESTER'S PATH. . .

HE MUST BE HARD OF
HEAR. NE- I COULD'VE
SWORN THAT CHAR
MOVED IN FRONT OF
ME. MUST BE NERVES!

THE EMIGRATED FORTUNE WAS LOST WHEN A CANNON BOAT THE
CHAP WITH ABORDING THE BL...
TENDER VICTIM GUEST THE BOTH...
HIS MIGHT

UGH

GEORGE ROBERTS JUST SEEMED TO MELT AWAY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED, SLEEPING PEACEFULLY/THE BED STARTED TO GLIDE NOISELESSLY ACROSS THE ROOM

I KNOW I'M NOT
IMAGINING IT THIS
TIME! I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE, BUT I'M NOT
GOING TO GIVE UP
NOW!

WESTER'S DESPERATION WAS MIXED WITH FEAR BUT HE THOUGHT
OF JOYCE, MONET, AND ANNE. THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING
SO HARD, MR. BARNET
WHAT A PITY...JOYCE
TOLD ME YOU WERE
MY RIVAL

MY HANDS RIGHT THERE IN
HIS NECK Y Y Y I C A N T
ALIVE YOURS AND
A GHOST

A black and white comic book panel. A man with dark hair, wearing a horizontally striped short-sleeved shirt and light-colored trousers, stands in the center of the frame. He is looking down towards a person lying face down on the floor in the lower right corner. The person on the floor appears to be wearing a dark jacket and light-colored pants. In the background, there is a window with a grid pattern and some furniture, including a chair and a table. A speech bubble from the man reads: "I KNOW I'M NOT IMAGINING IT THIS TIME! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP NOW!". The panel is numbered "1" in the bottom right corner.

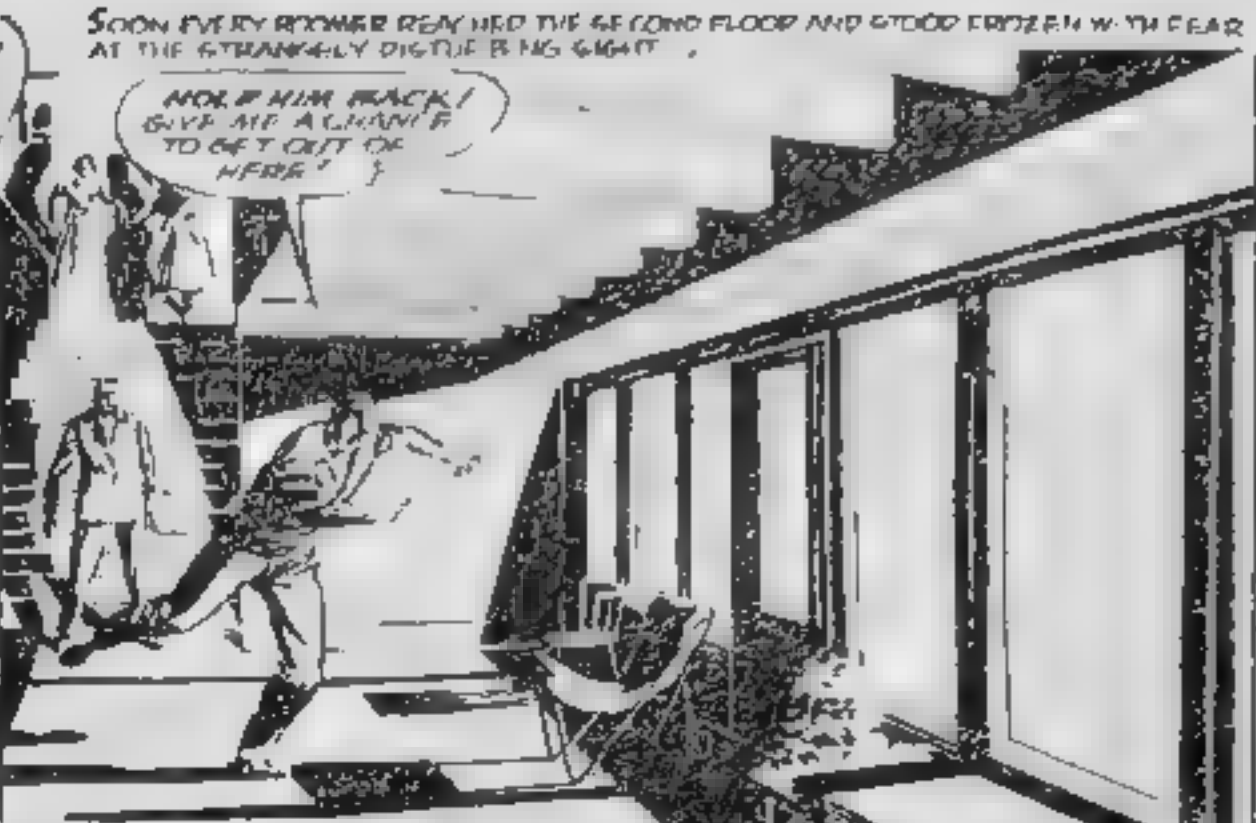
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING SO HARD, MR. BARNETT! WHAT A PITY... JOYCE TOLD ME YOU WERE MY RIVAL

MY HANDS RIGHT OVER HIS NECK Y-Y-Y! HE'S NOT ALIVE YOU'RE AND A GHOST!



KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME! HELP! DON'T LET HIM GET ME!

YOU WANTED ME DEAD, BARNETT! WELL, I AM DEAD!



SOON EVERY ROOMER REMAINED THE SECOND FLOOR AND STOOD FROZEN WITH FEAR AT THE STRANGELY DISTURBING SIGHT.

HOLD HIM BACK! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE!



STOP HIM! PLEASE, GRAB HIM, SOMEBODY!

HERE! HERE! WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY HOUSE?



THAT'S RIGHT, HOLD HIM! HE WON'T HURT YOU, TELL ME HE'S AFTER!

GEORGE, PLEASE! LESTER DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO ME! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE YOU JEALOUS! YOU KNOW I'M GOING TO MARRY YOU, DARLING!



BUT YOU CAN'T MARRY HIM, JOYCE! HE'S A GHOST!

OH, IS THAT WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT?



BUT DIDN'T YOU KNOW ABOUT US AND ABOUT THIS HOUSE?



IN A MOMENT THEY WERE ALL GONE! AND AT ONCE THE HOUSE ASSUMED AN AIR OF DECAY, THICK WITH DUST.

THEY... (CROAKS!) WERE ALL GHOSTS!

FAN FARE
SERIES

presents
**HISTORY
REPEATS ITSELF!**



LET'S OPEN WITH DR. BENTON'S
MEMORABLE ADDRESS BEFORE THE
**AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC
ASSOCIATION**---

YOU ALL KNEW **PROFESSOR
DALTON**! IF ONLY HE COULD BE
WITH US TONIGHT---TO HEAR ME
PRESENT THE PROOF OF HIS
GREAT THEORY!



THEORY, I SAID-- BUT IT HAS BECOME
STARTLING FACT! WHAT WOULD
YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THAT I'M
REPEATING A SPEECH WHICH I
MADE BEFORE YOU **100,000
YEARS AGO**-- IN THIS VERY
AUDITORIUM - **AND EVERYONE
OF YOU WAS LISTENING
TO IT!**



RALPH BENTON'S MIND FLASHED BACK---
WHERE HAD IT ALL BEGUN? PERHAPS BACK
HOME IN OAKTREE CORNERS, MASS.-- WHEN
HE WAS A KID, IN LOVE WITH THE GIRL ACROSS
THE AISLE---



TIME PASSES FAST IN OAKTREE CORNERS! THE FIRST THING YOU KNEW THEY WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL... AND THEY WERE INSEPARABLE...



AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THIS



LED TO THIS!



HE HUNG HIS FRATERNITY KEY ON A CHAIN AROUND KATHIE'S NECK...WHICH IN OAKTREE CORNERS WAS A SIGN THAT A GIRL WAS ENGAGED...



THAT SUMMER WHEN RALPH CAME HOME FROM COLLEGE, HE FOUND A HANDSOME AND POLISHED NEWCOMER WHO AROUSED HIS JEALOUSY...



THE FOLLOWING WEEK, KATHIE PROMISED TO MEET RALPH AT THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE TO HELP DECORATE FOR A COMMUNITY CHEST PARTY! HE ENTERED...TO FIND...



YES - SO IT APPEARS! YOU SEEM TO FIND FERRICK'S COMPANY ATTRACTIVE, DON'T YOU... POSSIBLY MORE SO THAN MINE!



WHY, WHAT DO YOU... MEAN?

I'D - ER - BETTER BE GOIN'...

I MEAN YOU'VE TAKEN ME FOR GRANTED! I NOTICE YOU'VE TAKEN OFF MY FRATERNITY KEY - YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM TO THINK YOU WERE EVEN ENGAGED TO ME!



BUT - BUT YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, RALPH! I MET HIM ON MY WAY HERE - AND HE INSISTED ON COMING ALONG! HE SAID HE'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT ONE OF THESE OLD-FASHIONED SCHOOL-HOUSES LOOKED LIKE, THAT'S ALL!

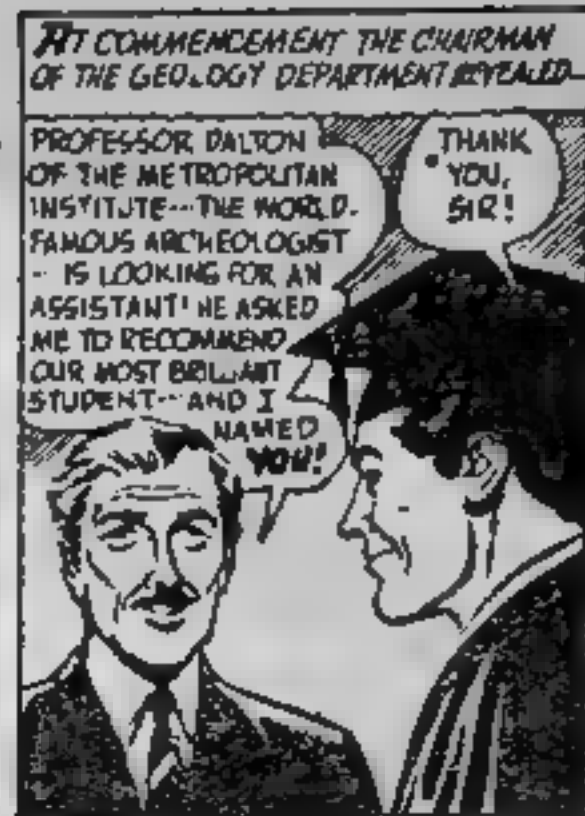


JO'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT, KATHIE-- BUT I CAN'T! I NOTICED YOU TWO WERE PRETTY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER WHEN I WALKED IN!

WE WED JUST COME IN WHEN THE CHAIN ON WHICH I WORE YOUR KEY BROKE, AND IT FELL INTO A CRACK IN THE FLOOR! THAT'S WHY I WASN'T WEARING IT! HE-- HE WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP ME FISH IT OUT!



BUT RALPH WASN'T BELIEVING MY STORY LIKE THAT! IN A HUFF HE BROKE OFF THEIR ENGAGEMENT-- AND AT COLLEGE, CONCENTRATED ON HIS WORK IN AN EFFORT TO FORGET HER--



AT COMMENCEMENT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT REVEALED--

PROFESSOR DALTON OF THE METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE-- THE WORLD-FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGIST-- IS LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT! HE ASKED ME TO RECOMMEND OUR MOST BRILLIANT STUDENT-- AND I NAMED YOU!

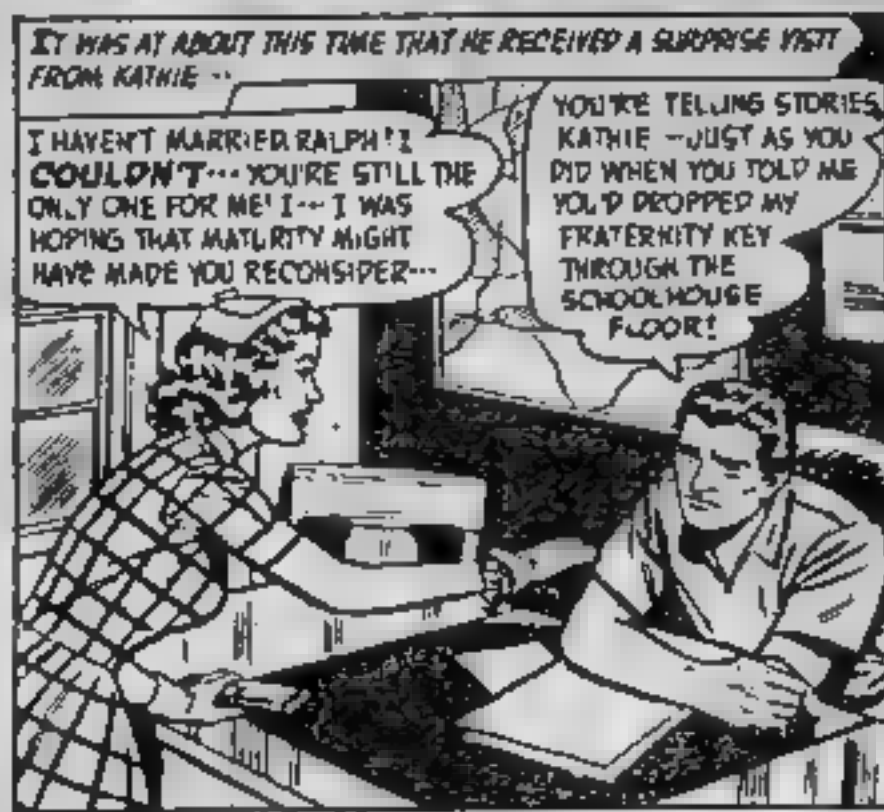
THANK YOU, SIR!



HE BECAME DALTON'S ASSISTANT-- AND AS TIME PASSED THEY GREW CLOSE--

LOOK, PROFESSOR-- THIS IS A **WONDERFUL** FIND!

YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S SOMETHING, EH? AH WELL, THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUTH--



IT WAS AT ABOUT THIS TIME THAT HE RECEIVED A SURPRISE VISIT FROM KATHIE--

I HAVEN'T MARRIED RALPH! I COULDN'T-- YOU'RE STILL THE ONLY ONE FOR ME! I-- I WAS HOPING THAT MATURITY MIGHT HAVE MADE YOU RECONSIDER--

YOU'RE TELLING STORIES, KATHIE-- JUST AS YOU DID WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU'D DROPPED MY FRATERNITY KEY THROUGH THE SCHOOLHOUSE FLOOR!



AND SINCE THERE CAN'T BE TRUTH BETWEEN US, WE CAN HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON-- NOW OR EVER! GOODBYE, KATHIE!



HE HID HIS OWN GRIEF IN HIS ARCHEOLOGICAL EFFORTS! BY NOW, PROFESSOR DALTON WAS LIKE A FATHER TO HIM--

HERE'S SOMETHING **AMAZING**! A STONE KNIFE SUCH AS I'VE NEVER SEEN!

AND YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT, DO YOU? WELL, WELL!



WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS THROWING COLD WATER THAT WAY? WHY IS NO DISCOVERY I MAKE BIG OR IMPORTANT ENOUGH?

FORGIVE ME, RALPH! IT'S JUST THAT I BELIEVE I'VE MADE A DISCOVERY SO **STAGGERING** THAT IT'LL ROCK THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD TO ITS FOUNDATIONS! YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME-- I FEEL I SHOULD TELL YOU NOW!

IT BEGAN TEN YEARS AGO, WITH A ROUTINE EXPEDITION TO THE POLAR REGIONS IN SEARCH OF TRACES OF A PREHISTORIC ESKIMO CIVILIZATION...



"WE HAD TO TUNNEL PRETTY DEEP BUT WHAT I UNCOVERED WASN'T ESKIMO! INSTEAD..."



I I DON'T GET IT! I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF A KENTUCKY TOWN AROUND THE YEAR 1800... AND THIS IS A DEAD RINGER FOR IT!

"SEPARATED BY A DISTANCE WAS ANOTHER HOUSE... A ROUGH LOG CABIN..."



IT LOOKS LIKE THE SORT OF PLACE WHERE EARLY AMERICAN PIONEERS MIGHT HAVE LIVED!

INSIDE THE CABIN I FOUND A SHOVEL WITH A NAME SCRAWLED ON IT! I JUST HAD TIME TO PHOTOGRAPH IT BEFORE THE WHOLE SETTLEMENT CRUMBLED INTO DUST BECAUSE OF EXPOSURE TO THE AIR! BELIEVE IT OR NOT RALPH... THIS IS WHAT I PHOTOGRAPHED!



OH COME NOW, PROFESSOR... YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO SWALLOW THAT!



WAIT... THERE'S A SECOND OCCURRENCE I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU! IT WAS IN EGYPT IN 1956 I'D UNCOVERED SOME TYPICAL RUINS AND WAS DIGGING DEEPER TO MAKE SURE I'D EXCAVATED EVERYTHING...

WHAT I FOUND BENEATH WAS SO STUPENDOUS THAT I DOUBTED MY OWN EYES! IT WAS LUCKY THAT I HAD MY CAMERA WITH ME...



GOOD HEAVENS, IT... IT'S STARTING TO TURN TO DUST! I'D BETTER GET A PICTURE FAST!

"GO AHEAD AND LAUGH IF YOU WANT... BUT HERE'S THE PICTURE I SNAPPED AT THE BOTTOM OF AN EGYPTIAN EXCAVATION!"



WHAT THE...? IT'S NOTRE DAME... IN PARIS!

OUT OF THESE ODD PHENOMENA CAME THE GERM OF MY STRANGE THEORY! THEY SAY HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, AND I'VE COME TO BELIEVE THAT IT **DOES**... IN AN INCREDIBLE FASHION!

ALL LIFE IS GOVERNED BY A RIGID CYCLE--AND CONSTANTLY **RECURS**, AT INTERVALS OF ABOUT 100,000 YEARS! FOR INSTANCE, THE CITY OF NEW YORK MUST HAVE EXISTED IDENTICALLY 100,000 YEARS AGO--AND HAS NOW RECURRED AS WE KNOW IT!



LIFE CONSISTS OF CONSTANT REPETITION! WHAT EXISTS NOW EXISTED FAR BACK IN HISTORY--AND WILL EXIST AGAIN 100,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE! AND EVERYTHING WILL BE IDENTICAL, EXCEPT FOR **LOCATION** WHICH CHANGES BECAUSE OF THE SHIFTING OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE AS THE AGES PASS!



THERE IT IS--I'LL MAKE IT PUBLIC WHEN MY STUDIES ARE COMPLETE! SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY AT WHAT TIME AND INTERVAL THESE THINGS REPEAT THEMSELVES--AND EXACTLY WHERE WE'D BE ABLE TO FIND THESE IDENTICAL RELICS OF THE PAST! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

PROFESSOR--
**YOU'VE BEEN
WORKING TOO
HARD!**



PROFESSOR DALTON WAS HURT BY RALPH'S DISBELIEF--

IF ONLY I COULD GET HIS COOPERATION! IT'S MY GREATEST DREAM TO GET MY THEORY ACCEPTED--AND I'M AFRAID MY HEALTH WON'T ALLOW ME TO DO MUCH MORE WORK ON IT!



SEVERAL MONTHS LATER--

YOU SAY THE PROFESSOR'S BEEN TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL--THAT HE'S DYING OF A **HEART ATTACK**? I--I'LL GET RIGHT OVER--



THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME LEFT--

I--I'D BEEN MAKING PLANS FOR--ANOTHER EXPEDITION--GREATEST--ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND--IN HISTORY! PLEASE, RALPH

DON'T TRY TO TALK--WHATEVER IT IS, I'LL GO AFTER IT! YOU CAN BE SURE OF THAT!



HERE'S--**MAP!** AND PROMISE--YOU'LL OPEN THIS LETTER--ONLY **AFTER** YOU'VE MADE YOUR FIND--

I PROMISE, PROFESSOR!



THE MAP SET FORTH A SECTION OF INDIA THAT WAS WILD, UNEXPLORED--



THE EXPEDITION PENETRATED INTO AREAS UNTOUCHED BY LIVING MAN



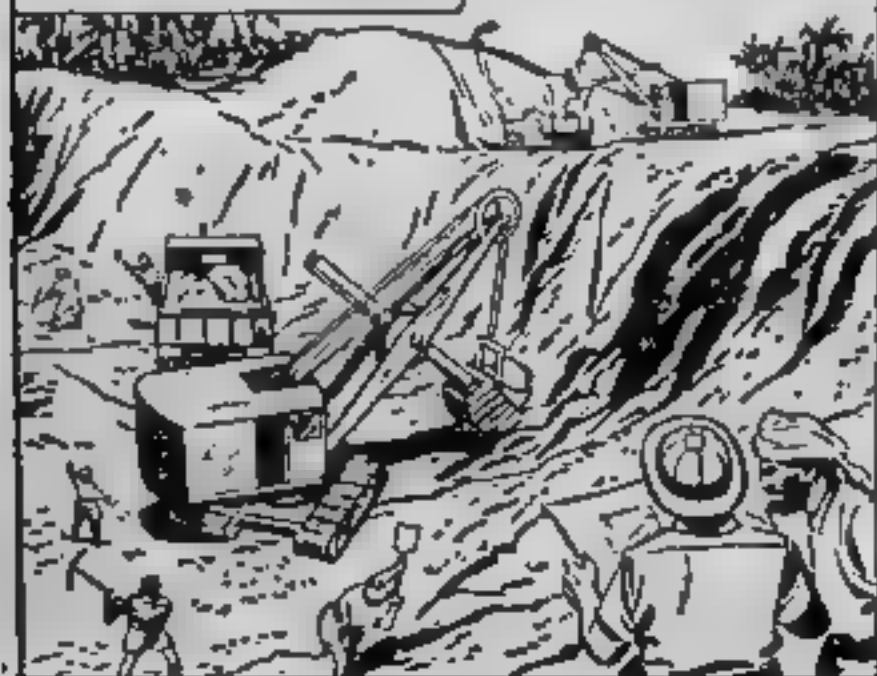
THEY ENCOUNTERED SWIFT AND SUDDEN DANGERS...



PERILS WHICH SCATTERED THEM LIKE CHAFF...



BUT FINALLY THEY ARRIVED AT THE DESIGNATED SPOT! DIGGING EQUIPMENT WAS FLOWN IN...AND THE BIG EXCAVATION JOB COMMENCED!



DOWN DOWN THEY DUG - BUT THERE WAS NOTHING! COULD IT BE THAT PROFESSOR DALTON HAD BEEN **WRONG**? THEN...A HEAVY LAYER OF SOLID VOLCANIC ASH...

SOMETIME IN THE PAST... AT LEAST 100,000 YEARS AGO - THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS VOLCANIC ERUPTION, BURYING WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN HERE!

ONE THING WE KNOW ANYWAY - IF THERE **WAS** ANYTHING UNDER HERE IT'S BEEN WELL PRESERVED!



THEN, THE VERY NEXT DAY...AN AMAZING DISCOVERY!

IF IF THIS WASN'T A THOUSAND CENTURIES OLD...I'D ALMOST SWEAR IT WAS THE CHURCH BACK IN **DAKTREE CORNERS, MASS.!**



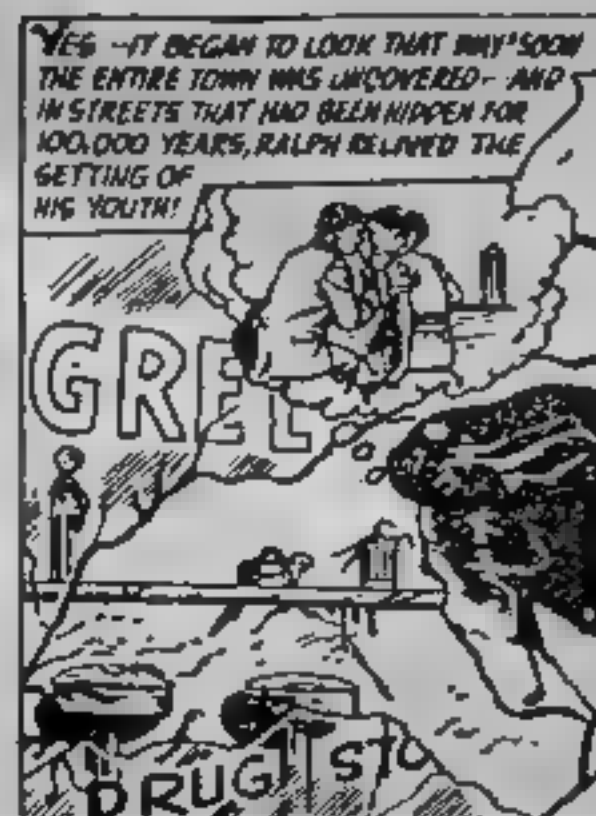
AS THE STEAM SHOVELS CREAKED AND GROANED...OTHER STRANGE THINGS CAME TO LIGHT...

THIS IS **INCREDIBLE!** ALMOST LIKE THE RAILROAD STATION OF A NEW ENGLAND TOWN!

YES...A **FAMILIAR** TOWN! I - I DON'T GET IT!

DR. BENTON! **LOOK!**





THEN HE REMEMBERED THE SEALED LETTER PROFESSOR DALTON HAD GIVEN HIM--TO BE OPENED ONLY AFTER HE'D MADE THE GREAT FIND--

Dear Ralph:-

If you've found what I sent you after, you'll realize that my theory was true--that whatever we know in life has existed before. I knew that the best means to convince you was finding the very spot you knew best, your own hometown--and showing you that it had existed in its exact form 100,000 years ago.

IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO PLOT ITS LOCATION, AND I'M ENCLOSEING THE FORMULA WHICH I USED. IF I WAS RIGHT PUBLICIZE MY WORK, REVEAL IT TO THE WORLD!

I SURE WILL, PROFESSOR! BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO FIRST!



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER--BACK IN OAKTREE CORNERS, MASS.--

WONDER WHO THAT CAN BE? I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE--

RAP!
RAP!

WELL, YOU ARE NOW--THAT IS, IF YOU'LL HAVE ME! I'VE BEEN TERRIBLY UNFAIR TO YOU KATHIE--NOT BELIEVING THE TRUTH WHEN YOU SPOKE IT--AND I WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES MAKING IT UP TO YOU!

R-RALPH! WHAT?

I'M ASKING THE QUESTIONS! YOU MARRIED YET?

N-NO...

ENGAGED?

NO--

M-MAYBE I SHOULDN'T--BUT --BUT JUST TRY GETTING AWAY!

I GUESS AFTER THE PLACES YOU'VE BEEN, OAKTREE CORNERS CAN'T LOOK LIKE VERY MUCH!

ON THE CONTRARY, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD IT ACTUALLY LOOKS WITH PEOPLE IN IT--ESPECIALLY YOU!



THE MEANDERING MAN

FROM MARS

Who was to blame for it all? I really don't know how to answer that question. Dr. Hughes Monroe, principal of our school, certainly was the person who made us Seniors take the new course entitled, "Attitudes of Peoples." It was supposed to help us either way. If we went out and got a job, or if we went to college.

So it happened in this course which was given once a week on Friday afternoons. Mr. William Bently of the Social Science Department gave the course. There were exactly twenty-three students in the class. I was the twenty third. How did I get into the class?

Definitely, my girl Elaine Berman, was responsible. She came over to my house on that Wednesday night. She liked two things. Strawberry shortcake that my mother made, and myself.

"Frank," she said as she was eating a second helping of the strawberry shortcake, "I registered for the course to be given by Mr. Bently. You take it."

Simple as all of that. Maybe at my tender young age I had learned you just don't argue with females. Elaine wanted me to take the course, so I would. But I did ask one sensible question.

"Is the textbook they are going to use heavy?"

There was so much to learn these days that the books got thicker and thicker. You had to be strong to carry a geography book, an American History book, a French book, four notebooks, a fielder's glove, and other items to school.

"No textbook to be used at all," she smiled back at me.

So maybe that is what helped me to decide that I would take the course. For the first five weeks everything went fine. We talked a lot about how attitudes were formed. Why people did what they did.

Then Jimmy Jasper made that statement. I still can remember the words he said.

"Some people think that Americans are too sophisticated. Nothing in the world would surprise them."

"Nothing?" I questioned.

"Nothing," repeated Herb Garson. "Even if a Man from Mars came meandering into our town."

There was a peculiar silence when he finished that statement. Selma Kildy wanted to know something.

"What is meandering?"

"Just walking around," explained Herb Garson.

We got into an argument about that Meandering Man from Mars. So we finally put it up to our teacher. Who was right?

"We would need some kind of test to find out exactly the attitude of the people in any given town in such a situation," he said.

That didn't satisfy my girl. She had to ask the silly question.

"You mean we invite a Man from Mars to come down here on Earth just to meander. Then we all check the attitudes of people. But we can't do it."

We got into all kinds of arguments. They claim that I made the following suggestion:

"So we make a Man from Mars. A lot of iron

junk and some old radio parts should do the trick. Herb Garson will get into it. We go through town. Study the reactions of the people."

Anyway the next thing I knew was that a committee of us were in the principal's office. He called up the Chief of Police to see if it would be o.k. to dress up one of the boys as a Man from Mars.

"Says you can go right ahead," smiled our principal. "He's interested in the results. The members of the police force will be alerted. So will the State Police."

It took us a week to get the junk assembled. Herb Garson liked the idea very much. He would land in the newspapers-but inside all the junk. Saturday morning was the day selected. Herb took the junk home and was to meet us at Meadowbrook and Pine at nine, without fail. Six of us, including my girl, and our teacher were there on time, and then came our Man from Mars. Two little kids rushed up to him.

"Hey hunk of junk," shouted one kid, "How do you keep cool inside?"

"I just can keep at any temperature," replied the voice coming out from a small microphone and broadcasting unit.

"You could be catcher on our team," suggested the other kid. "Jerry is scared of the ball. Bet you aren't afraid of anything."

"What's baseball?" asked our Man from Mars.

"Now don't play dumb," shouted one of the kids. "This Sunday morning we are going to play a game. The east siders against the west siders at the Melton field. You ask for me. The name is Lou. I'll see you get a good seat, but you may have to be our catcher."

We quickly made notes in our little books. Kids weren't impressed by a Man from Mars. We walked south on Pine Street. A few people stopped and laughed. One man looked all around the figure of junk.

"I figure you are advertising something," conceded the man. "Looks like a good stunt. Here's my business card. You come up to my place. I will give you ten dollars a day to carry a sign on your back. Maybe we will figure out some kind of a sign that can be worked by batteries."

"How much is ten dollars?" asked our Man from Mars.

"Let's not argue," said the man as he started to walk away. "I'll give you twelve dollars a day. It must be tough carrying all that armor."

One thing was certain. Herb Garson had a future opened to him in the advertising field. So quickly we made notes in our little books about possibilities if Herb wanted to make money. Then a young man stopped. There was a pretty girl at his side.

"Say this is a swell idea for a masquerade. Bet we could win first prize with it. I will go as a Man from Mars. Look, Helen, you dress up as a female from that planet. Mister inside of that outfit. Are you going to a masquerade?"

"What's a masquerade?" demanded the Man from Mars.

"Some sense of humor," laughed the young man as he and his girl walked away.

We came to the corner of Main Street. The Chief of Police came up to our teacher.

"Put that figure right next to the traffic light. Maybe it will be more effective."

So I walked with the hunk of junk next to the traffic light and quickly I spoke to Herb.

"Put your hand up when the light is green and to the side when the light is red."

"Is this a game?" came right back at me.

"Yes," I shouted. "It ought to do something to the cars."

A few drivers stopped and they all asked the same question:

"Something new in traffic control?"

No use-writing in our notebooks. The whole idea was a fizzle. I walked back to the rest of our group followed by the Man from Mars and the Chief of Police. He wanted to know if he could borrow the iron junk for his kids to play with.

I was about to tell him he could take it and also Herb for ten cents when we heard a terrible shout. We looked and saw something that scared all of us. A little baby was creeping out of a window on the sixth floor of an apartment.

The Man from Mars looked up and quickly realized the gravity of the situation. Right before our eyes it happened. That hunk of junk went right up into the air and gently brought the baby down. Then handed it to me. And I gave the baby to the Chief of Police. A few minutes later the mother came down. We tried to say something. She thanked the hunk of junk for saving her baby. Then she almost fainted.

"But how did he get up into the air?"

"I happen to be a real Man from Mars," was the answer. "My name is Moroto. I have had a wonderful time here. You will have to be my guests and visit my planet."

Believe me, that's what really took place. What about Herb? He was home sick. Seems he had four portions of ice cream, three big slices of watermelon, six jelly buns, and half a pound of candy the night before.

Our principal was very much pleased with the results of the experiments. We all got our pictures in the newspaper. And Moroto the Man from Mars says he likes strawberry shortcake. So we will have him over to our house next Tuesday. But who will eat more? He or my girl?

THE END

DR. WHARPLE WAS A SCIENTIST, A MAN WHO BELIEVED ONLY IN THE REALITY WHICH HE COULD WEIGH AND MEASURE WITH HIS INSTRUMENTS. YET HERE BEFORE HIS EYES ANOTHER REALITY TOOK SHAPE... THE FANTASTIC ILLUSION THAT WAS...

HEPZIBAH'S DREAM!

STORY:

SHANE
OSHEA

ART:

JOHN
BUSCEMA



AS A WHARPLE WORKED ON A SECRET GOVERNMENT PROJECT SET UP IN AN ISOLATED COMMUNITY. A DEVOTED SCIENTIST, HE OFTEN BROUGHT WORK HOME TO HIS PRIVATE LABORATORY...

HEPZIBAH, IF YOU CAN PUT DOWN THAT CHILDISHLY ROMANTIC BOOK FOR A MOMENT I'D LIKE YOU TO TYPE UP A FEW NOTES.

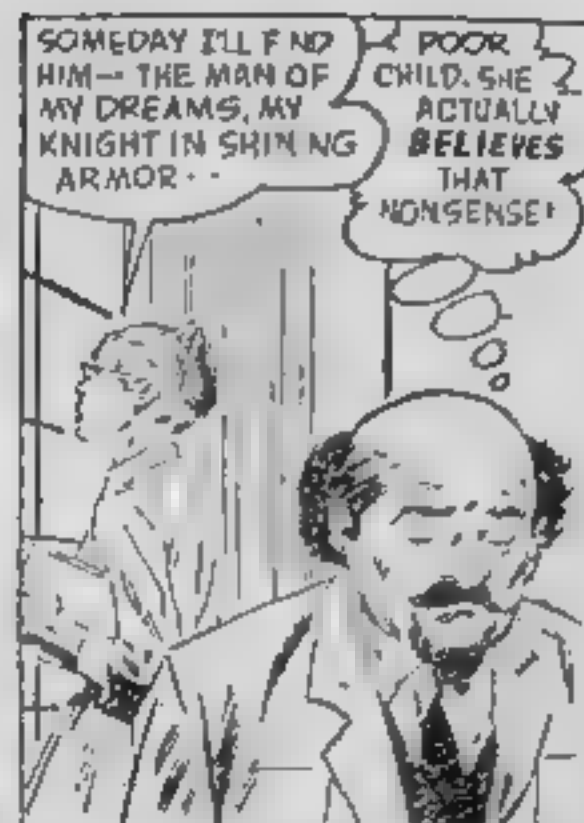
ALL RIGHT, DAD, JUST AS SOON AS I FINISH THIS CHAPTER.

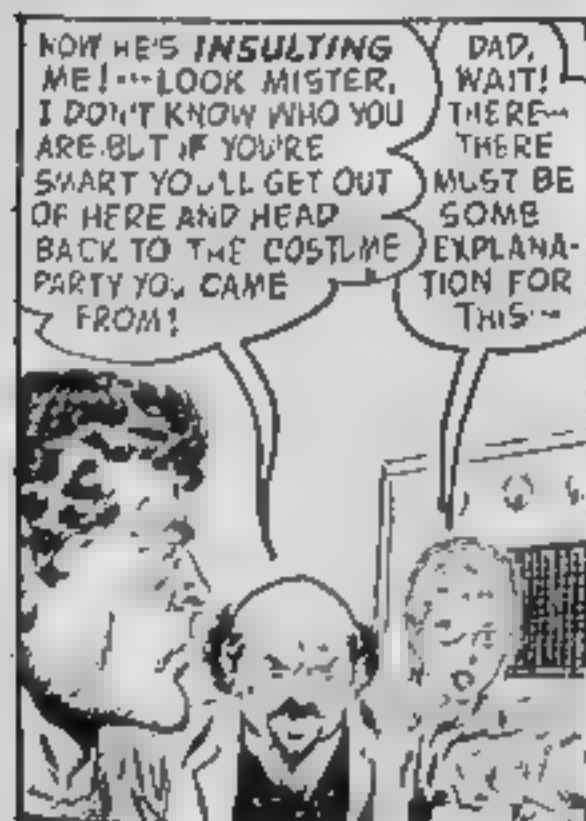
AS A MAN OF LEARNING, DR. WHARPLE WAS DISTRESSED BY HIS DAUGHTER AT TWENTY-FIVE; HEPZIBAH LIVED IN A FAIRY-WORLD OF HER OWN...

ANOTHER BOOK ABOUT KNIGHTS AND DRAGONS! WHEN WILL YOU GROW UP, CHILD? WHEN WILL YOU STOP READING THOSE FABLES?

NOW DAD, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE. TO ME, THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY WERE THE MOST EXCITING AGE MANKIND EVER LIVED THROUGH.







BUT ONE THING PREVENTED ASA FROM BELIEVING HIS OWN EXPLANATION...

WAIT A MINUTE! EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR A KNIGHT TO PIERCE THE TIME BARRIER WHAT'S THIS TALK OF DRAGONS? THERE NEVER WAS SUCH A CREATURE!

IF THOU DOUBT THE EXISTENCE OF THE DRAGON LOOK BEHIND YOU!

IT'S A HUGE CLAW!

YES THE TALON OF THE FIRE DRAGON, THE DRAGON!

BACK MY LADY! THE CREATURE SEARCHES FOR ME

I'M AFRAID.

AS THE BLADE DESCRIBED A GLITTERING ARC, THE MIGHTY TALON WAS WITHDRAWN...

YOU DID IT, SIR EDWIN! YOU SAVED ME FROM THE DRAGON!

WE ARE STILL IN DANGER, MY LADY. THE CREATURE HAS OTHER WEAPONS. WATCH AND SEE!

YES LEGENDS HAD TOLD OF FIRE BREATHING DRAGONS.

THE VERY BREATH OF THE FIRE DRAGON IS SEARING FLAME AND NOW HE USES IT AGAINST US!

DO NOT FEAR, SWEET DAMSEL! MY SWORD WILL DEFEND THEE!

ASA LEAPED FOR THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER TO SAVE HIS BELOVED LABORATORY, BUT...

BACK, MY FRIENDS, BEFORE THE HEAT CONSUMES US.

LET ME GO!



SIR EDWIN, YOU SAVED OUR LIVES BACK THERE. HOW CAN I THANK YOU?

TO GAZE UPON
THY FAIR FACE IS
REWARD
ENOUGH!



WITH A SHOCK, ASA REALIZED HOW
FONDLY THEY WERE LOOKING AT EACH
OTHER...

YOU...
YOU CAN'T GO
BACK... THAT
DRAGON WOULD
DESTROY YOU.
YOU MUST
STAY HERE
WITH US.

WOULD
THAT I COULD,
LADY
HEPZIBAH!



AND SUDDENLY HE DIDN'T CARE WHO
THE STRANGER WAS OR WHERE HE
CAME FROM. IT WAS ENOUGH THAT
HIS DAUGHTER HAD FOUND THE ONE
SHE LOVED!

WHY CAN'T YOU STAY?
THIS WORLD OF OURS HAS SO
MUCH TO OFFER YOU. LOOK OUT
THERE... CARRIAGES THAT MOVE
WITHOUT HORSES... IRON
BIRDS THAT CARRY
MEN THROUGH THE
AIR...

THOU
CANST NOT
TRICK ME,
WIZARD!



THESE WONDERS THOU HAST SHOWN
ME ARE BUT **SORCERY**... A
SPELL YOU CAST OVER ME!
ONLY MY OWN WORLD IS
REAL, I KNOW THAT
MOST CERTAINLY!

YES,
FATHER,
TO HIM,
ONLY HIS
WORLD IS
REAL!



SWEET DAMSEL, THOUGH
I WOULD GIVE MY
KNIGHTHOOD TO
STAY HERE WITH
THEE, I MUST
RETURN.

BUT
WHY,
WHY?



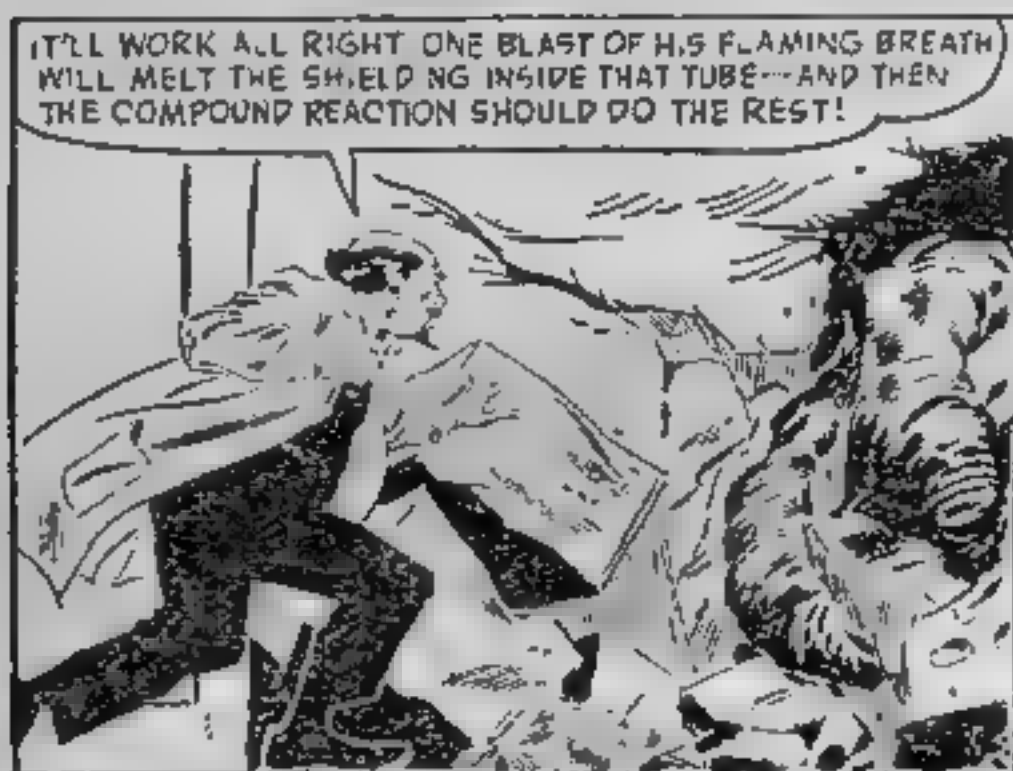
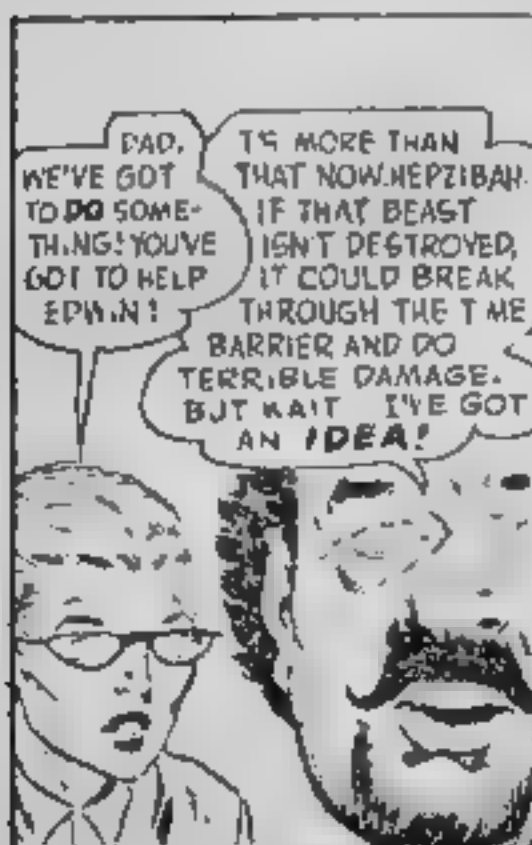
SIRRAH, I HAVE SEEN THIS DRAGON
RAYAGE MY LAND! HE HAS LEFT A
HUNDRED VILLAGES CHARRED
AND BLACKENED. I MUST RETURN
TO DESTROY HIM, OR I DISHONOR
MY KNIGHTHOOD!



SUDDENLY
THE HOUSE
TREMBLED
WITH THE
IMPACT
OF A
MIGHTY
FORCE...

THE FIRE Drake--HE IS
TRYING TO GET THROUGH!

GET THROUGH
INTO OUR WORLD?
HE MUSTN'T!





NO, EDWIN, WHEN YOU GO YOU WILL LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND. I AM GOING WITH YOU!

HEPZIBAH!



FATHER, I CAN'T STAY HERE WITHOUT HIM. IT'S AS IF I WAITED ALL MY LIFE FOR EDWIN TO COME--AND I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP NOW!

I UNDERSTAND. GO, AND MAY HEAVEN BLESS YOU BOTH!



AND AS THE WALL CLOSED BEHIND THEM, ASA WHARPLE WIPED AWAY A QUIET TEAR--

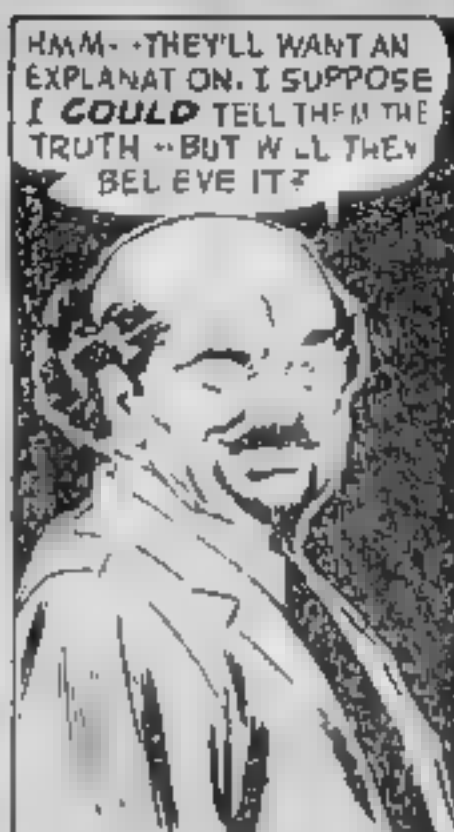
MY LITTLE HEPZIBAH--SHE FOUND HER KNIGHT IN ARMOR AT LAST!



IT'S--FOR THE BEST. SHE BELONGS IN THAT OTHER WORLD. AND I KNOW SHE'LL FIND HER HAPPINESS THERE WITH SIR EDWIN!



AH, THE AUTHORITIES. I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THOSE EXPLOSIONS WOULD BRING THEM RUNNING!



HMM--THEY'LL WANT AN EXPLANATION. I SUPPOSE I COULD TELL THEM THE TRUTH--BUT WILL THEY BELIEVE IT?



AFTER ALL--WOULD YOU?

I TOLD
YOU WE WOULD
MEET AGAIN.
COLONEL YANG
FOR THE
FINAL
RECKONING!

The MANDARIN'S ROBE!



THE VAST AND ANCIENT
LAND OF CHINA TODAY LIES,
MANGLED UNDER THE
CRUEL HEEL OF RED
COMMUNISM'S RULING.
THROUGH FEAR AND VIOLENCE,
COMMUNISM'S RUTHLESS
GENERALS KNOW NO LAW
BUT THEIR OWN! BUT JUSTICE
TAKES A HUNDRED FORMS
AND A THOUSAND DISGUISES
...IT SOMETIMES STRIKES
FROM THE PAST, OUT OF THE
UNKNOWN, AND ITS SHAPE
CAN BE THAT OF A

**MANDARIN'S
ROBE!**

CENTRAL CHINA...

THE TOWN WILL BE
OURS WITHIN TWO
HOURS, EXCELLENCY!

THEY'VE
RESISTED TOO
LONG ALREADY
-- THEY NEED
A LESSON!



COLONEL SEN LIN YANG, ONE OF THE
CRUELLEST OFFICERS IN THE CHINESE
COMMUNIST ARMY, SURVEYED HIS LATEST
CONQUEST...

46 PRISONERS
GREAT ONE!
YOUR ORDERS?

FORCE THEM TO JOIN OUR
RANKS! THEY'LL TAKE THE
PLACE OF SOLDIERS WHO
HAVE FALLEN!





HE EXPECTED TO SLEEP WELL BUT
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT

MUSIC---LIKE THAT OF A
ROYAL COURT ORCHESTRA!
HOW DARE ANYONE DISTURB
MY REST?



ENRAGED, HE ROARED AT THE
BAFFLED SENTRIES

I HEARD
NO MUSIC
GREAT
ONE

NOR
I!

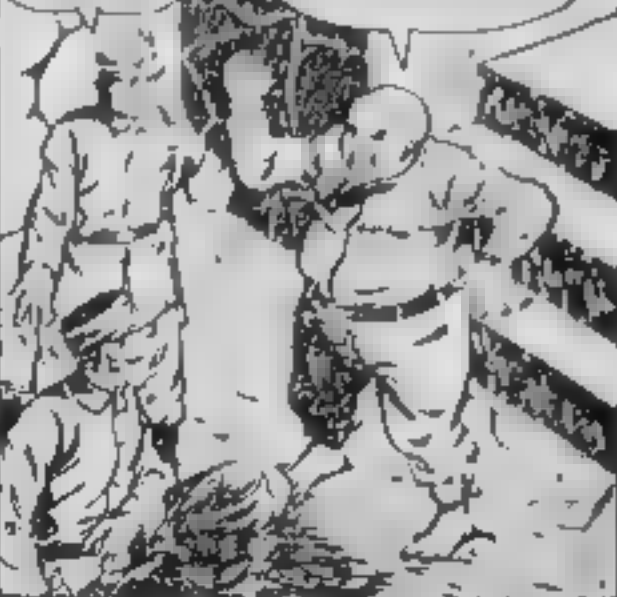
FOOLS!
I'LL GET TO
THE BOTTOM
OF THIS!



IN THE DARK AND SILENT STREET---

MUSIC? NO!
THERE HAS NOT
BEEN A SOUND
SINCE
CURFEW!

IF YOU, THERE
WAS MUSIC?
WHY DO YOU
FEEL AS IF
AT YOUR POST?



BUT WHEN YANG WENT BACK TO BED, HE WAS
DEEPLY PUZZLED---



PERHAPS
I IMAGINED
IT ALL!

BUT MY
NERVES HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN
LIKE IRON!

HE SLEPT FRETFULLY AND AT THE FIRST SIGHT WHICH
GREETED HIS EYES THE NEXT MORNING



AIEEE!
GUARDS!
COME
QUICKLY!

IT'S THE ROBE I ORDERED
BURNED---PINNED TO THE
WALL BY A KNIFE WITH
A JADE HANDLE! WHO'S
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS?

NO ONE ENTERED
THIS ROOM, EXCELLENCY
---I SWEAR IT!

THAT'S RIGHT--
NOBODY!

YOU'RE BOTH LYING!
YOU'LL BE QUESTIONED
UNTIL YOU DO
TALK!

NO, COLONEL
YANG--
NO!



TAKING NO CHANCES, YANG HAD THE ROSE BURNED BEFORE HIS VERY EYES---

I ORDERED YOU TO DESTROY THIS YESTERDAY! YOU'RE INVOLVED IN SOME PLOT TO FRIGHTEN ME! FOR THIS YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED!

MERCY, GREAT ONE! I CARRIED OUT YOUR ORDERS!

BUT CALLING UPON YANG'S MERCY WAS USELESS! LATER---

AN INSPECTOR FROM HEADQUARTERS WILL BE HERE TOMORROW TO INSPECT OUR PROGRESS! ALL DANGEROUS ELEMENTS MUST BE CRUSHED BY THEN UNDERSTAND?

HIS FIRST COMMAND WAS TO HAVE A PROCLAMATION READ IN THE TOWN---

ALL THOSE WHO CAN READ OR WRITE MUST REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS! CLERICAL HELP IS NEEDED AND THOSE CHOSEN WILL RECEIVE EXTRA FOOD! THOSE WHO DON'T COOPERATE WILL BE DEALT WITH!

ALMOST 50 PEOPLE PRESENTED THEMSELVES, INCLUDING A POOR PEASANT PROUD OF THE FACT THAT HE HAD PAIN-TAKINGLY LEARNED TO READ! YANG TESTED THEM ALL

THE POPULATION OF CHINA --- IS ---

ENOUGH! NOW TAKE ALL OF THEM OUT AND HAVE THEM SHIPPED TO LABOR CAMPS TOMORROW!

THEY ALL HAD SOME EDUCATION, AND WERE THEREFORE POTENTIAL ENEMIES! COMMUNISM MUST START WITH MINDS THAT ARE TOTALLY IGNORANT!

THROUGHOUT THE DAY YANG'S TROOPS SCOURGED THE TOWN LIKE A PLAGUE! EVERYONE WITH BOOKS OR FINE POSSESSIONS OR RELATIVES IN AMERICA WAS IMPRISONED---

OCCASIONALLY A CASE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE YANG FOR JUDGMENT---

I'VE FOUND AN AMERICAN FOUNTAIN PEN IN THE HOME OF THIS OLD MAN, TAI-PO!

NEED WE KNOW MORE? AWAY WITH HIM!



IT WAS ALL HE COULD DO TO PULL IT OFF...

WHAT IF I HADN'T NOTICED IT? WHAT IF THE HEADQUARTERS INSPECTOR HAD SEEN ME WEARING IT? IT WOULD HAVE MEANT INSTANT PUNISHMENT! I KNOW THEIR MENTALITIES-- THEY'D THINK POWER HAD GONE TO MY HEAD!



YANG QUICKLY BURIED THE RING AND NERVOUSLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE SUPERIOR...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? AM I LOSING MY MIND? HOW COULD ANYBODY SLIP A TIGHT RING ON MY FINGER WITHOUT AWAKENING ME? SO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING!



THE TOWN WAS QUIET AND TERRIFIED WHEN THE INSPECTOR ARRIVED...

I SEE YOU HAVE MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS, COLONEL YANG! HAS ALL OPPOSITION BEEN NEUTRALIZED?

RUTHLESSLY!



AFTER A THOROUGH TOUR...

MOST SATISFACTORY, YANG! I SHALL COMMEND THE SPARTAN WAY YOU PERSONALLY LIVE! YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH SOME COMMANDERS-- THEY START INDULGING THEMSELVES-- FORGETTING THEY ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE CENTRAL COMMUNIST PARTY!



AS THE TWO MEN GORGED THEMSELVES AT THE WELL-STOCKED TABLE...

I'VE GOT TO WATCH MY STEP UNTIL HE LEAVES TOMORROW! HE'S BEEN TAKEN IN BY MY LACK OF PHYSICAL COMFORTS-- BUT HE'S DANGEROUS! I'LL TAKE SEVERAL PILLS TO MAKE SURE I SLEEP WELL TONIGHT!



UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS, OBIVION CAME QUICKLY-- BUT NOT FOR LONG...

IT'S THE MUSIC-- LOUDER THAN EVER! I DON'T DARE INVESTIGATE-- THE MEN ARE STARTING TO THINK ME MAD ALREADY! GREAT HEAVENS, ARE MY EYES DECEIVING ME?



HE SAT BOLT UPRIGHT IN TERROR-- FOR A PANEL WAS SLIDING OPEN IN THE WALL! THE MUSIC SURGED FORTH LOUDLY NOW...

I-- I MUST BE DREAMING! THIS ROOM WAS INSPECTED THOROUGHLY! AND THAT GIRL-- SHE CAN'T BE REAL!

COME ON GREAT ONE-- WE ARE ALL WAITING FOR YOU!



HE STARED AT THE SPLENDIDLY DRESSED GIRL AS IF HYPNOTIZED...



WH-WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

TO THE BALL! COME, IT IS ONLY DOWN THE FLIGHT OF STEPS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PANEL!

WELDED IN THE GRIP OF A TRANCE, HE FOLLOWED HER DOWN INTO A GLITTERING BALLROOM WHERE HUNDREDS OF MAGNIFICENTLY-ATTIRED GUESTS WERE ASSEMBLED...

SEE, OH GREAT ONE! TALL BOW BEFORE YOU!

BUT WHO WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?



SITTING ON A THRONE CUT FROM A SINGLE PIECE OF JADE WAS THE MANDARIN HIMSELF, PREPARED WITH A COURTEOUS GREETING...

YOU ARE OUR GUEST OF HONOR, COLONEL YANG. WE BID YOU WELCOME!

IT IS THE FATE OF THE OLD MAN I HAD IMPROVED FOR TAI-PO!



EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED HAD A STRANGE DREAMLIKE QUALITY'S. DOZEN DANCING GIRLS APPEARED, SUPERB FOODS AND DRINK WERE THRUST UPON HIM...



I'M STILL ASLEEP AND IT'S SUCH A PLEASANT DREAM!

AS THE GUESTS BOWED AND SCRAPPED OBSEQUIOUSLY, YANG WONDERED WHY THEIR FACES WERE ALL SO FAMILIAR...



OF COURSE! THEY ARE ALL PEOPLE I HAVE HAD PUNISHED! STRANGE THAT MY DREAMS SHOULD BE CONCERNED WITH THEM!

DOES EVERYTHING MEET WITH YOUR SATISFACTION, EXCELLENCY?

THE MANDARIN CLAPPED HIS HANDS SHARPLY AND CALLED FOR SILENCE...



WE ARE HERE TO HONOR A GREAT MAN! I YIELD MY THRONE TO COLONEL YANG AND GIVE HIM MY ROBE AS PROOF THAT HE IS NOW THE MANDARIN!

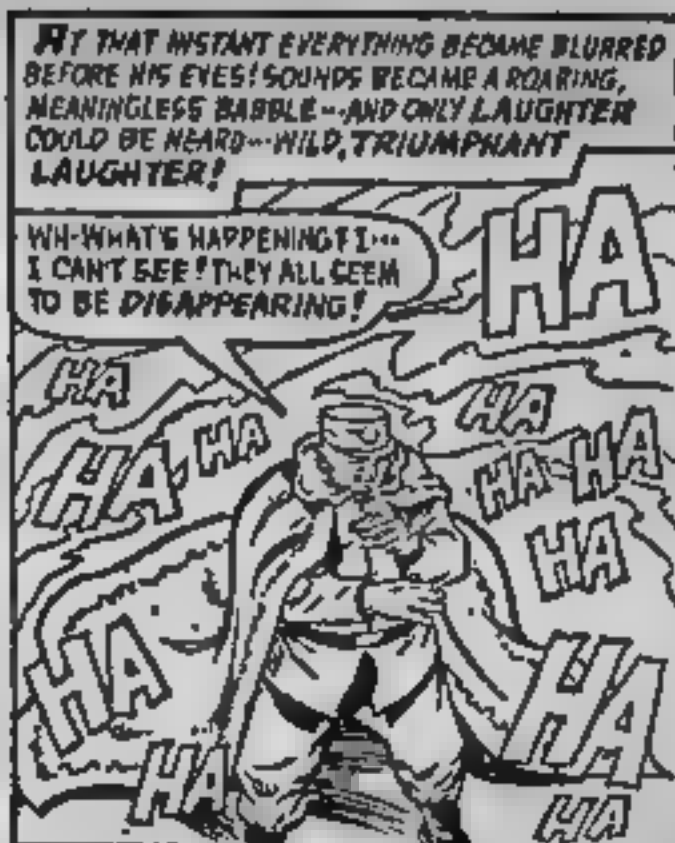
HAIL TO OUR NEW RULER!

IT WAS A DAZZLING MOMENT, AS THE RICH CLOTH CIRCLED HIS BODY...



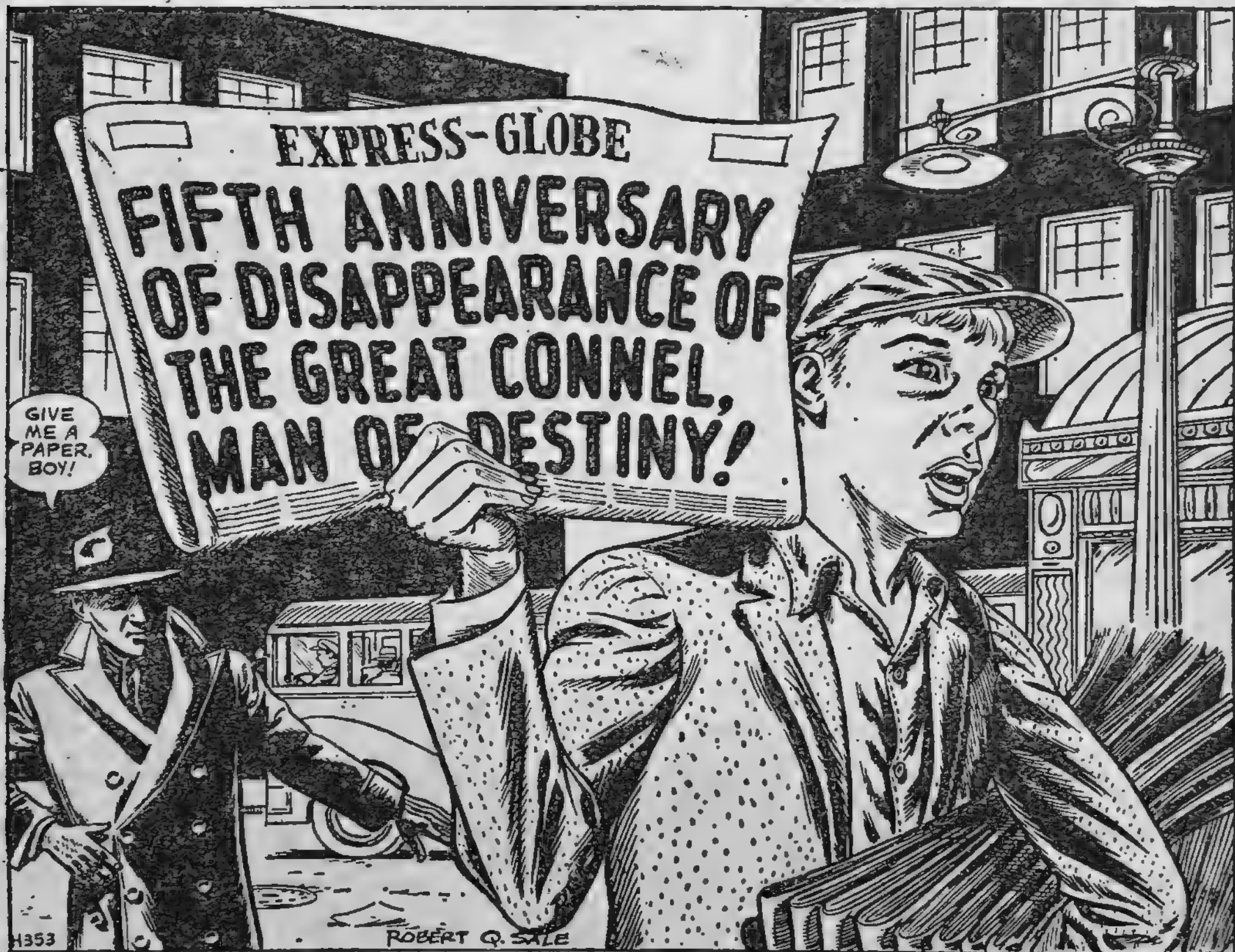
YOU ARE NOW RULER OF THIS PROVINCE, AND SOMEDAY YOU SHALL RULE ALL CHINA! HAIL TO THE NEW MANDARIN!

IT IS ONLY A PROPHECY... BUT I SHALL MAKE IT COME TRUE!



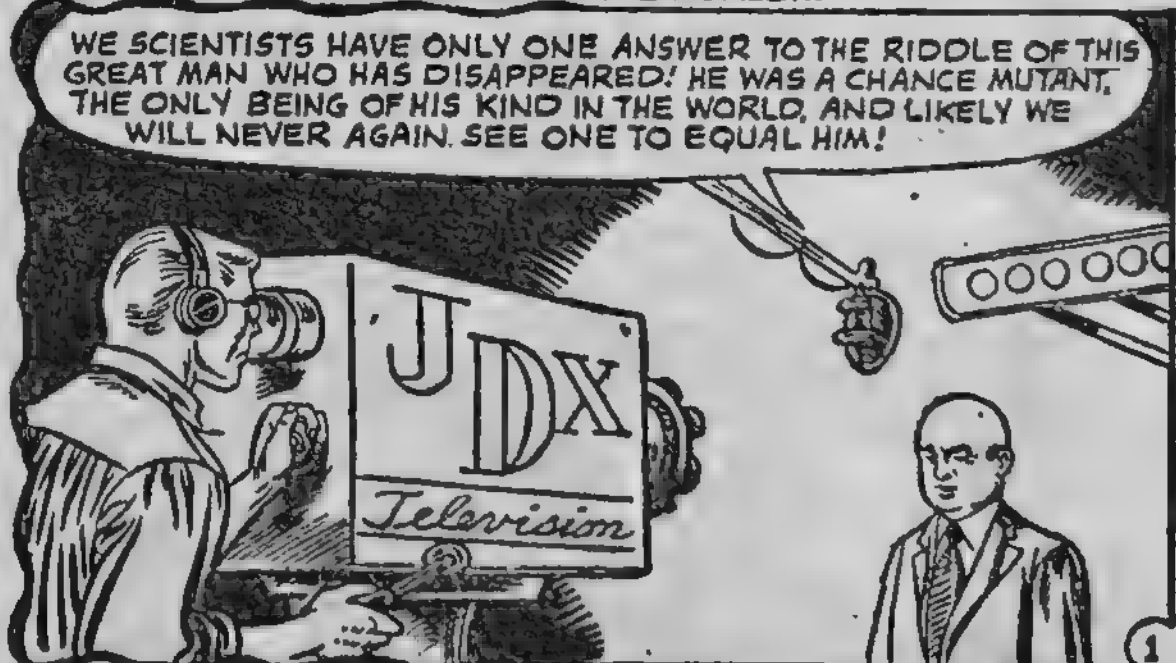
EACH YEAR ON THE DAY HE HAD DISAPPEARED, THE WHOLE WORLD MOURNED THE MEMORY OF THE GREAT CONNEL, THE STRANGEST MAN IN THE WORLD...WHOSE POWERS HAD BEEN FANTASTIC! THE MUTANT HAD USED HIS GREAT POWERS TO BRING MANKIND TO THE THRESHOLD OF THE GOLDEN AGE! LEGENDS WERE RIFE ABOUT THE FAMOUS MUTANT! WHAT WAS THE WHOLE TRUTH? WHY HAD HE DISAPPEARED? ONLY ONE MAN KNEW...AND THIS IS HIS STORY!

THE MUTANT!



THIS IS THE MAN WHO KNOWS, READING THE PAPER WITH A QUIET SMILE! HE IS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GREAT CONNEL!

HE REMEMBERED THE DAY OF THAT DISAPPEARANCE FIVE YEARS AGO! AND HE REMEMBERED THE SOLEMN SCIENTISTS WHO GAVE THEIR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD...



HIS STRANGE POWERS WERE ASTONISHING! HE COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS BY PURE THOUGHT, WAS TELEPATHIC, COULD TRANSPORT HIS BODY THOUSANDS OF MILES IN A MATTER OF SECONDS! IN HIS MIND RESTED STRANGE SECRETS OF THE PAST AND FUTURE... AND HE GENEROUSLY HELPED MAN!



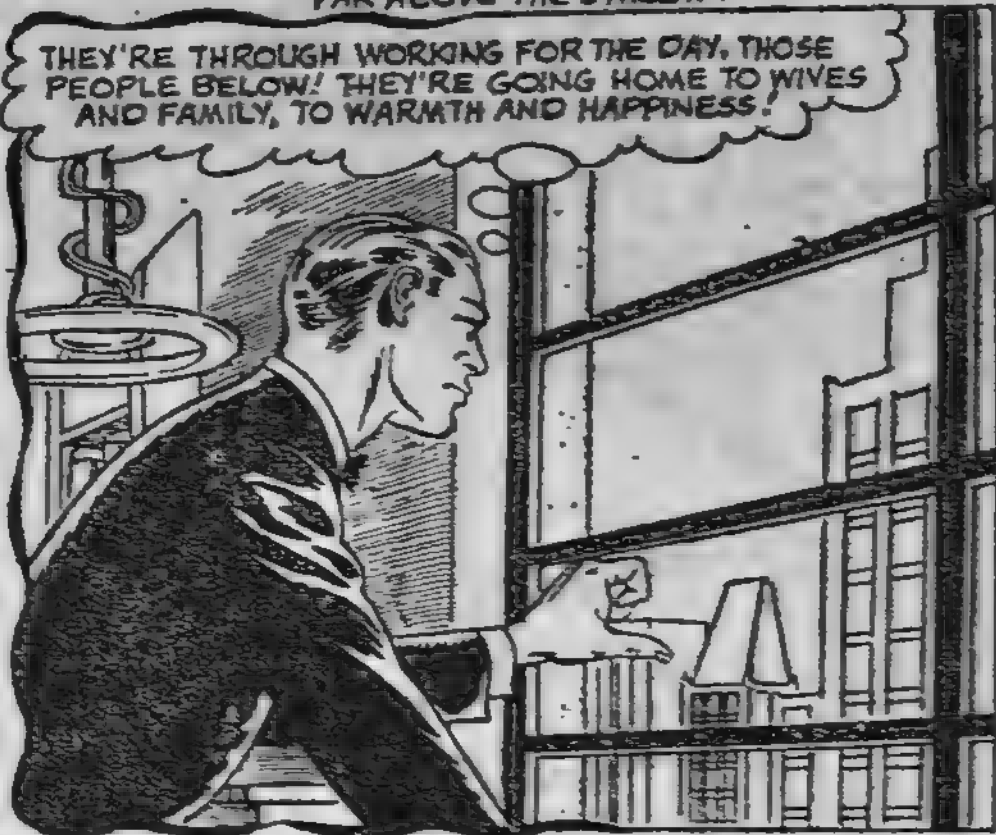
WITH HIS RARE GIFTS, HE INSURED WORLD PEACE, SHOWED MANKIND THE PATH TO UNDERSTANDING! THROUGH HIS EFFORTS, MAN'S LIFE SPAN HAS BEEN MADE LONGER, AND HE SHOWED US HOW TO REACH THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE! BUT BEFORE HE COULD SEE THE FRUITS OF HIS EFFORTS BECOME FACTS, HE DISAPPEARED!



THAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO, AND THE VERY ORDINARY MAN WALKING IN THE STREET TURNED HIS THOUGHTS TO THE GREAT MAN HIMSELF... TO CONNEL, ON THAT DAY HE DISAPPEARED!



CONNEL, THE MUTANT, THE MAN OF DESTINY, IN HIS HIGH TOWER FAR ABOVE THE STREET...



THEY'RE THROUGH WORKING FOR THE DAY, THOSE PEOPLE BELOW! THEY'RE GOING HOME TO WIVES AND FAMILY, TO WARMTH AND HAPPINESS!

CONNEL, IN THE ROOM IN WHICH HE WORKED HIS WONDERS! EVERY ENTRANCE UNDER GUARD BY ALARMS, SECRET RAYS AND HUMANS...



ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, SIR?

NO, THANK YOU!

CONNEL, IN HIS IVORY TOWER, THIS APARTMENT WHERE HIS EVERY NEED WAS CATERED TO...



IF I COULD ONLY JOIN THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE, BE LIKE THEM! BUT I'M NOT LIKE THEM... I'M DIFFERENT... A MUTANT...

CONNEL, THE GREATEST MAN THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN... AND THE LONELIEST...



TO THEM, I'M A CHANCE MUTANT, I INSPIRE AWE, BUT NEVER LOVE! IF THEY ONLY KNEW HOW MUCH I WISH I WERE LIKE THEM, COULD LIVE WITH THEM AND FIND WARMTH AND PEACE AND HAPPINESS...

SUDDENLY, THOSE STRANGE SENSES HE POSSESSED RANG A WARNING IN HIS BRAIN! SOMETHING WAS IN THE ROOM WITH HIM...

SOMETHING ALIEN...



HOW DID YOU GET HERE, PAST ALL THE GUARDS? WHO ARE YOU AND WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?

I PROJECTED MY BEING INTO THIS ROOM... FROM THE PLANET MYSTIRUM, DEEP IN SPACE!



CONNEL BROUGHT FORTH THOSE STRANGE POWERS OF HIS TO READ THE MIND OF THIS ALIEN HUMANOID, TO RENDER HIM HARMLESS AND UNDER HIS CONTROL!

DO NOT PROJECT YOUR WILL TO TRAP ME, CONNEL! YOUR POWERS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME, FOR I POSSESS THOSE SAME POWERS AND CAN COUNTERACT THOSE YOU PROJECT!

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?



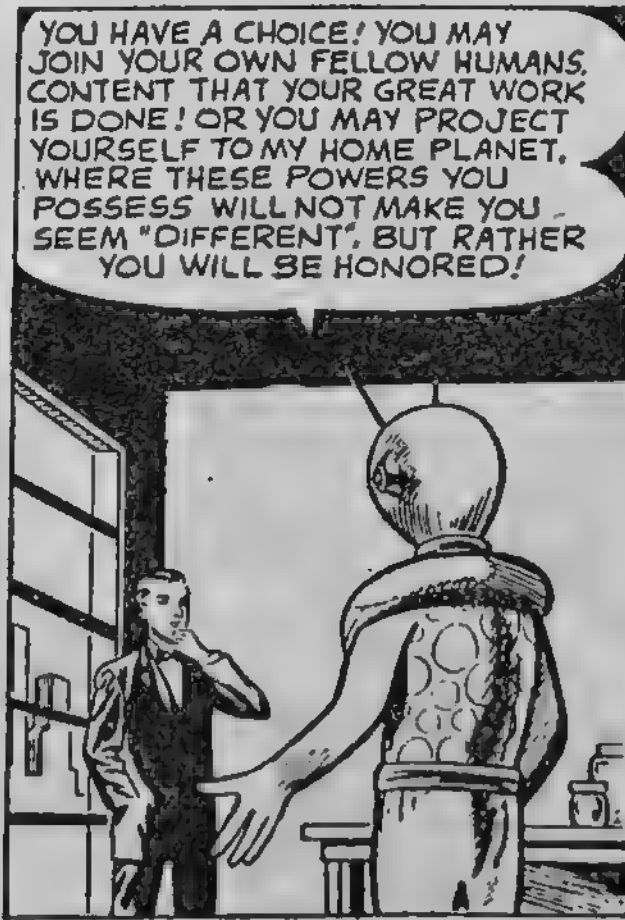
MANY YEARS AGO, WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, YOU WERE CHOSEN TO LEAD YOUR PEOPLE OF EARTH TO THE RIGHT PATH! THE LEARNED ONES OF MY PLANET CHANGED YOUR MENTAL GENES AND GAVE YOU THOSE POWERS WHICH YOU HAVE USED FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY...



YOU HAVE MADE MANKIND WORTHY OF JOINING THE GREAT FEDERATION OF THE GALAXY, UNITING ALL LIFE FORMS ON ALL PLANETS! THIS HAS BEEN YOUR TASK AND IT IS COMPLETED!

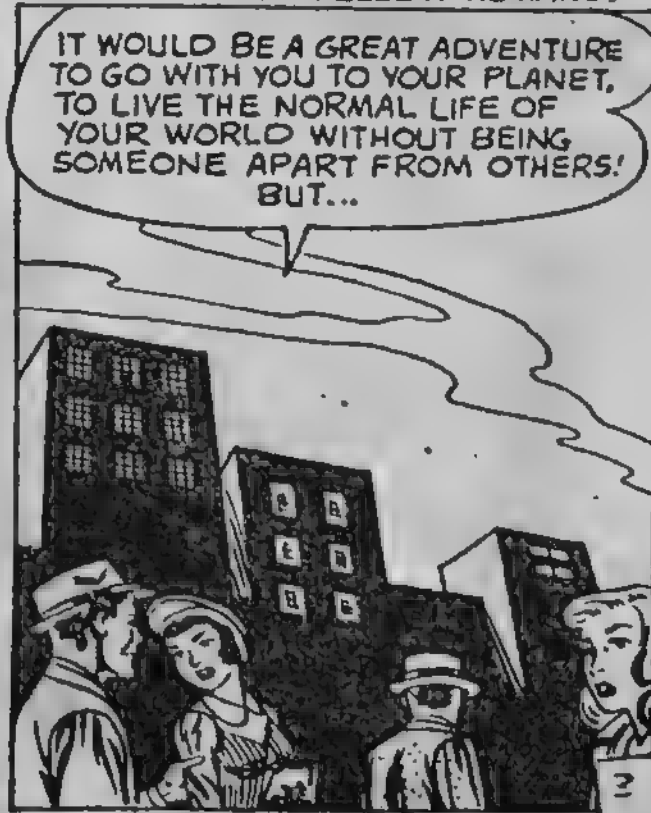
WHAT IS THERE FOR ME NOW?

YOU HAVE A CHOICE! YOU MAY JOIN YOUR OWN FELLOW HUMANS, CONTENT THAT YOUR GREAT WORK IS DONE! OR YOU MAY PROJECT YOURSELF TO MY HOME PLANET, WHERE THESE POWERS YOU POSSESS WILL NOT MAKE YOU SEEM "DIFFERENT", BUT RATHER YOU WILL BE HONORED!



CONNEL WENT BACK TO THE WINDOW AND LOOKED DOWN AT THOSE PEOPLE BELOW HIM, HIS FELLOW HUMANS!

IT WOULD BE A GREAT ADVENTURE TO GO WITH YOU TO YOUR PLANET, TO LIVE THE NORMAL LIFE OF YOUR WORLD WITHOUT BEING SOMEONE APART FROM OTHERS! BUT...



NO! I MUST STAY AMONG MY OWN KIND EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I CAN NEVER LIVE A NORMAL HAPPY LIFE HERE!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS! NOW I MUST GO! USE YOUR POWERS TO TRANSFER YOUR PHYSICAL BEING FROM THIS ROOM TO THE STREET BELOW!



CONNEL WILLED HIS BODY TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE ROOM AND REAPPEAR ON THE STREET BELOW!

THEN THE ROOM WAS EMPTY... THE ALIEN HAD DISAPPEARED!

SO I'M NOT A MUTANT! I'M JUST AN ORDINARY MAN INTO WHOM HAS BEEN GRAFTED EXTRAORDINARY POWERS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE!



THE PEOPLE MOVED GOING THEIR PURPOSEFUL WAYS... AND CONNEL MOVED WITH THEM!



I FEEL STRANGE DIFFERENT! GAY EXCITED AS THOUGH I AM ABOUT TO ENTER INTO THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE!



AND THEN HE REALIZED WHAT THIS FEELING MEANT!

MY POWERS! THEY'RE GONE! LIKE A LOAD LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS! I'M JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING, LIKE ANY OF THESE OTHER PEOPLE...



THAT WAS THE DAY FIVE YEARS AGO, THAT CONNEL HAD DISAPPEARED, MERGING WITH THE CROWD AND VANISHING! YES, THE MAN WHO HAD BOUGHT THE NEWSPAPER KNEW IT SO VERY WELL!



AND THE VERY ORDINARY MAN, WHO HAD ONCE BEEN THE GREAT CONNEL, BY 20, FOLDED HIS NEWSPAPER AND WALKED BRISKLY AND HAPPILY TOWARD HIS HOME AND HIS WAITING WIFE AND FAMILY!



EVER WISH THAT YOU OWNED A TIME MACHINE? WELL, FORGET IT! YOU CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT ONE--AND STILL BE AN EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY! WANT TO LEARN HOW? THEN JOIN BUD STANHOPE ON A THRILLING VOYAGE BACK THROUGH TIME AND LEARN WITH HIM, THAT--

The PAST is ALWAYS with US!



OH-OH! OLD STEARNS IS LOOSE ON HIS PET SUBJECT--GOING BACK INTO THE PAST!

SIMMS COLLEGE

TONIGHT
Prof. P. W. Stearns
"CAN TIME
TURN BACK?"

CAN YOU IMAGINE ANYBODY BELIEVING THAT STUFF? TO ME, ANYTHING THAT CAN'T BE PROVED BY NATURAL LAWS JUST ISN'T!

YOU AND YOUR SCIENCE COURSES! I'VE HEARD THE OLD BOY PUTS ON A PRETTY CONVINCING SHOW, BUD--LET'S TAKE IT IN!

NOT ONE ATOM IN THE UNIVERSE HAS EVER DISAPPEARED SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING! IT'S STILL WITH US! WHY SHOULDN'T THE SAME THING BE TRUE OF TIME?

MY THEORY IS THAT TIME IS MERELY A ROAD WE PASS ALONG--AND THAT WHAT WE PASS **STILL EXISTS**, JUST AS DOES THE VILLAGE YOU MAY HAVE GONE THROUGH EARLIER IN AN AUTO TRIP!



AND NOW WE COME TO THE CRUX OF THE MATTER! **TIME** IS A CONCEPT OF THE MIND--TURN THE MIND BACK, AND, THROUGH THE POWER OF MIND OVER MATTER, IT MAY SOMETIMES BE POSSIBLE FOR THE BODY ACTUALLY TO ACCOMPANY IT! IN THAT FASHION, ONE MAY ENTER THE **FOURTH DIMENSION--TIME--** WHICH EXISTS ALL ABOUT US!



HE SAYS THAT AN INTELLIGENT PERSON, WHO CAN PROJECT A STRONG IMAGINATION, MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT! SOUNDS PRETTY VALID TO ME, BUD!

AUDITORIUM



NUTS! HE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT **TIME MACHINES** NEXT--AND **MAGIC WANDS!**



THE STRANGE LECTURE WAS SOON FORGOTTEN--UNDER THE IMPACT OF A TELEGRAM--



NEXT DAY--BACK HOME IN SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS--



WELL, THERE'S THE OLD PLACE! GOSH, I HOPE NOTHING SERIOUS HAS HAPPENED!

HE SOON FOUND OUT THE REASON FOR THE SUDDEN SUMMONS--

--SO THAT'S IT! WITH MY BUSINESS FAILING, I-I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP YOU IN COLLEGE, BUD! MATTER OF FACT, IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE GOING TO LOSE THE **HOUSE**, TOO!

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY WE CAN SAVE IT? AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR OVER **TWO CENTURIES!**



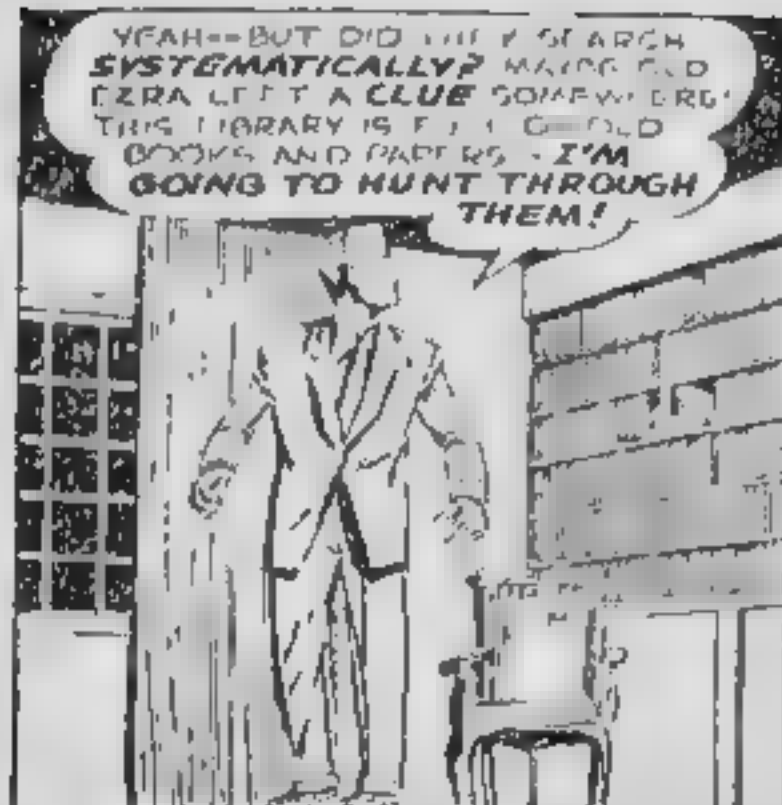
THE ONLY THING THAT COULD SAVE IT WOULD BE A **MIRACLE**--LIKE FINDING OLD EZRA STANHOPE'S LOST GOLD!





ANCESTOR EZRA, EH? LET'S SEE, HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE ACCUMULATED A FORTUNE WHICH WAS NEVER FOUND AFTER HE DIED! IT SURE WOULD COME IN HANDY NOW! IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HIDDEN IN THE HOUSE--THERE WEREN'T ANY BANKS IN THOSE DAYS!

FORGET IT! EVERY GENERATION SINCE HAS SEARCHED--VAINLY!

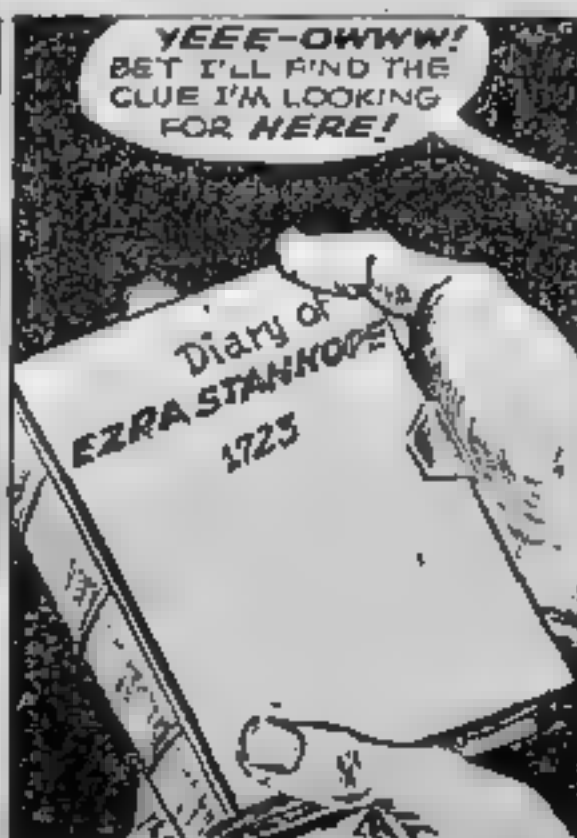


YEAH--BUT DID THEY SEARCH SYSTEMATICALLY? MAYBE OLD EZRA LEFT A CLUE SOMEWHERE! THIS LIBRARY IS FULL OF OLD BOOKS AND PAPERS--I'M GOING TO HUNT THROUGH THEM!

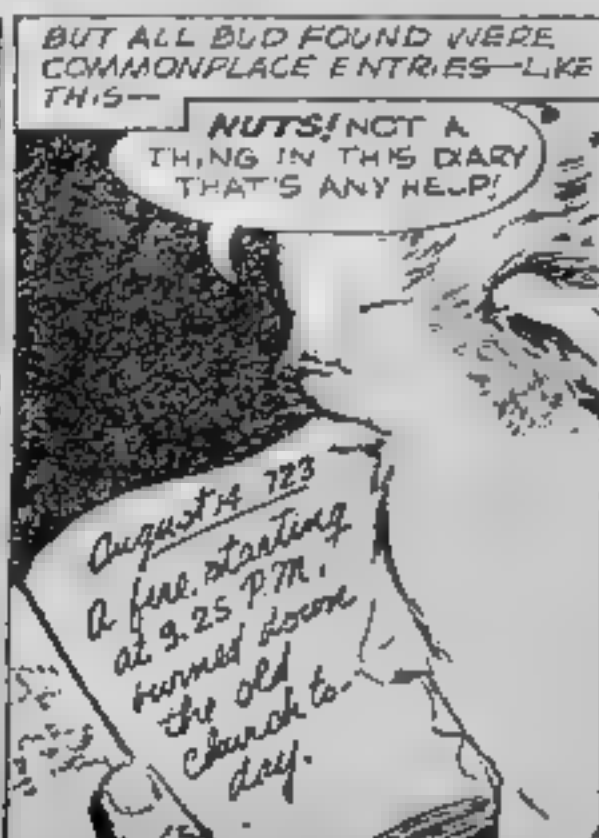


BUT THE SEARCH WAS FRUITLESS, UNTIL, ON THE HIGHEST SHELF OF ALL--

HMMM--LOOSE BOARD AT THE BACK OF THIS SHELF--THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND IT!



YEEE-OWWW! BET I'LL FIND THE CLUE I'M LOOKING FOR HERE!



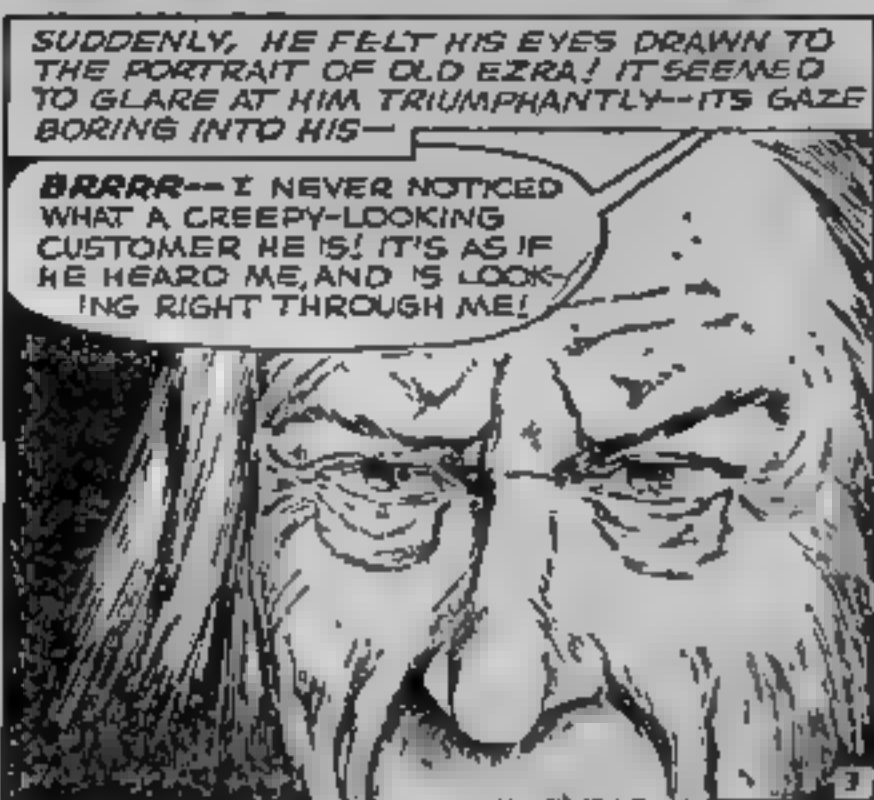
BUT ALL BUD FOUND WERE COMMONPLACE ENTRIES--LIKE THIS--

NUTS! NOT A THING IN THIS DIARY THAT'S ANY HELP!



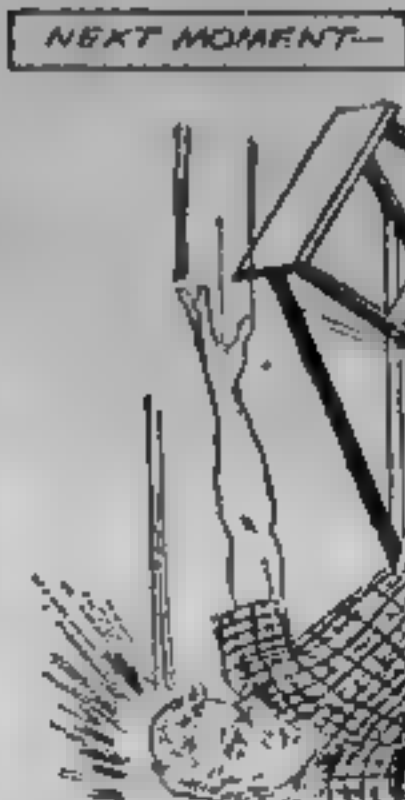
TOO BAD OLD PROFESSOR STEARNS ISN'T HERE--BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET ANY INFORMATION IS BY GOING BACK A COUPLE OF CENTURIES

IN TIME! HUH--WHAT A LAUGH THAT IS!



SUDDENLY, HE FELT HIS EYES DRAWN TO THE PORTRAIT OF OLD EZRA! IT SEEMED TO GLARE AT HIM TRIUMPHANTLY--ITS GAZE BORING INTO HIS--

BRRRR--I NEVER NOTICED WHAT A CREEPY-LOOKING CUSTOMER HE IS! IT'S AS IF HE HEARD ME, AND IS LOOKING RIGHT THROUGH ME!





YES, YESTERDAY I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS A HOLLYWOOD MOVIE SET--
BUT NOW--



WHO IS HE?
WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?

THE STRANGE CLOTHING HE WEARS--

LOOK, FOLKS, DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S NOT **POLITE** TO STARE?



I--I'VE GOTTA GET AWAY FROM THEM! SAY, AFTER ALL, THAT **IS** MY HOUSE THERE, GIVE OR TAKE A COUPLE OF CENTURIES! **I'M GOING BACK!** I'VE GOT A RIGHT!



BE A SWEETHEART AND **CLOSE** THAT DOOR, KUH? JUST SO'S THEY WON'T STARE AT ME!



WHEW! FUNNY, BUT IT'S SORT OF--WELL, **COMFORTABLE** BEING WITH YOU! JEEPERS, IF THEY HAD SLICK CHICKS LIKE YOU IN 1723, WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING WASTING MY TIME IN **1955?**

I--I FIND YOUR WORDS HARD TO UNDERSTAND-- BUT I LIKE THE WAY YOU SAY THEM!

JUDITH! WHO IS THIS STRANGER?



GOOD GOSH, IT'S OLD **EZRA STANHOPE**--JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURE!

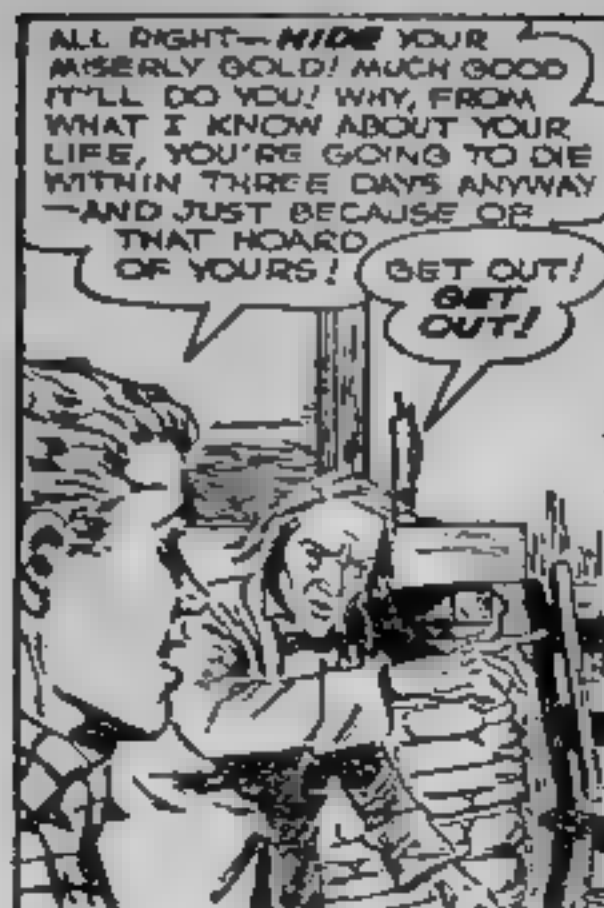
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME, FELLOW? AND WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE? **SPEAK UP!**



COULD HE TELL THE MISTER HE WAS THERE THROUGH A MERE ACCIDENT IN TIME? BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, BUD REMEMBERED THE HIDDEN GOLD! WHY NOT TELL THE **TRUTH?**

--SO THAT'S THE STORY, SIR! WE DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY DURING **YOUR** LIFE-TIME--BUT IF YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE IT'S HIDDEN, IT SURE WILL COME IN HANDY IN **1955!**

IT'S ALL A PACK OF **RIDICULOUS LIES!** YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO **CHEAT ME OUT OF MY FORTUNE!**



ALL RIGHT--HIDE YOUR MISERLY GOLD! MUCH GOOD IT'LL DO YOU! WHY, FROM WHAT I KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE WITHIN THREE DAYS ANYWAY--AND JUST BECAUSE OF THAT HOARD OF YOURS!

GET OUT! GET OUT!



AND SO BUD LEFT--IN A HURRY! HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT OLD EZRA HAD FOLLOWED HIM--

THAT'S HIM--THE THIEF WHO TRIED TO CHEAT ME!

WE'LL BRING HIM BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE!



HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, VARLET!



PURITAN JUSTICE WAS FAST! BUD'S TRIAL WAS IMMEDIATE--

THE DEFENDANT STATES THAT WHATEVER HE SAID WAS TRUE--THAT HE COMES FROM THE FUTURE! IS THERE ANY WAY HE CAN PROVE THIS RIDICULOUS ASSERTION?

HOLD ON--MAYBE I CAN!



IF PROFESSOR STEARNS WAS RIGHT, THE PAST CO-EXISTS WITH THE FUTURE--SO THERE OUGHT TO BE RADIO WAVES AROUND RIGHT NOW!

WHAT STRANGE DEVICE IS THAT?

NEVER MIND--JUST LISTEN!



IT--IT'S MAGIC!

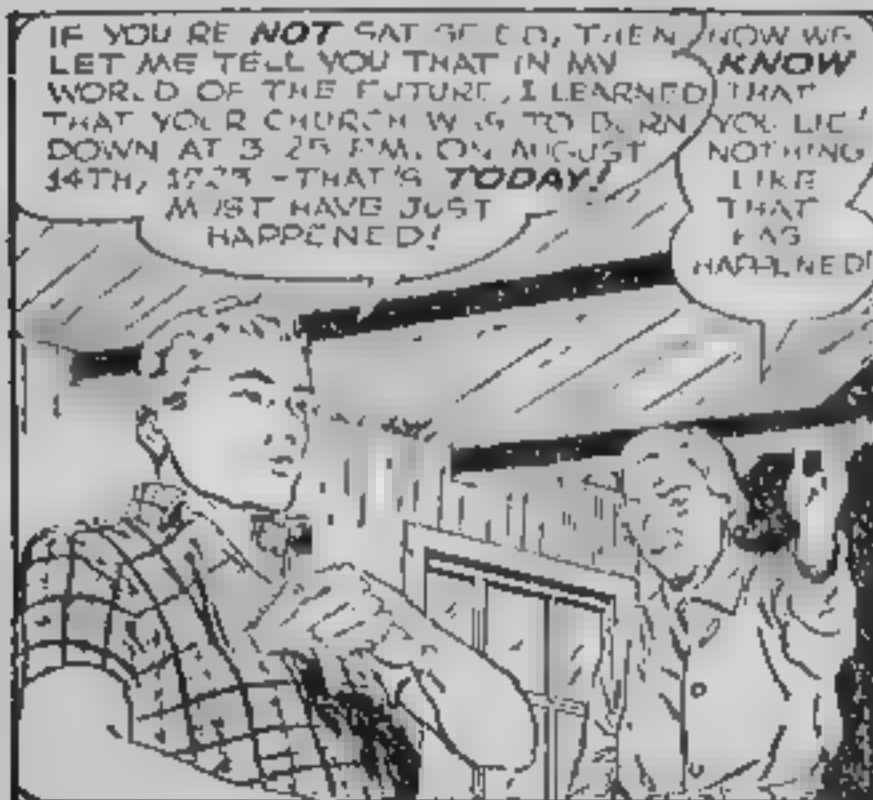
LET ME GO, LOVER--



WELL? SATISFIED?

SILENCE THAT INVENTION OF SATAN!

AND DON'T FORGET--RUN DOWN TO YOUR DRUG STORE AND ASK FOR WHITEY. FOR THOSE TEETH YOU LOVE TO TOUCH!



IF YOU'RE **NOT** SATISFIED, THEN LET ME TELL YOU THAT IN MY WORLD OF THE FUTURE, I LEARNED THAT YOUR CHURCH WAS TO BURN DOWN AT 3:25 P.M. ON AUGUST 14TH, 1923--THAT'S **TODAY!** MUST HAVE JUST HAPPENED!

NOW WE **KNOW** THAT YOU LIE! NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS HAPPENED!



THEN--AT THAT VERY MOMENT--
FIRE! THE OLD CHURCH HAS JUST CAUGHT FIRE!

HE'S A WIZARD!

WAAA--I WAS A LITTLE OFF! I FORGOT MY WATCH WAS DITCHING ON DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME!



WHY'D THEY STICK ME IN HERE THE MOMENT THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE FIRE? WHEN AM I GETTING OUT?

FOOL, YOU'RE **NOT** GETTING OUT! THE MOMENT THEY KNEW YOU'RE A WIZARD--
YOUR DOOM WAS SEALED!



THREE NIGHTS LATER--WITH HIS EXECUTION SET FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING--

THERE ISN'T A CHANCE FOR ME! I'LL **NEVER** GET OUT OF THIS!

HIST!



JUDITH! I CAME BECAUSE I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE YOU'RE GUILTY! MAYBE YOU'RE A LITTLE CRAZY--BUT YOU **ARE** SWEET! THE JAILER'S GONE HOME FOR THE NIGHT--HE REATTACH THIS ROPE TO THE BARS!



NOW COME ON--
PULL!--THERE!

GR-RAK



NOW YOU'D BEST FLEE--AS FAST AS POSSIBLE! REMEMBER, YOUR **LIFE'S** AT STAKE!

BUT I CAN'T! I JUST REMEMBERED--THIS IS THE NIGHT WHEN OLD EZRA IS SUPPOSED TO BE ATTACKED FOR HIS MONEY! I READ IT IN OUR FAMILY HISTORY!



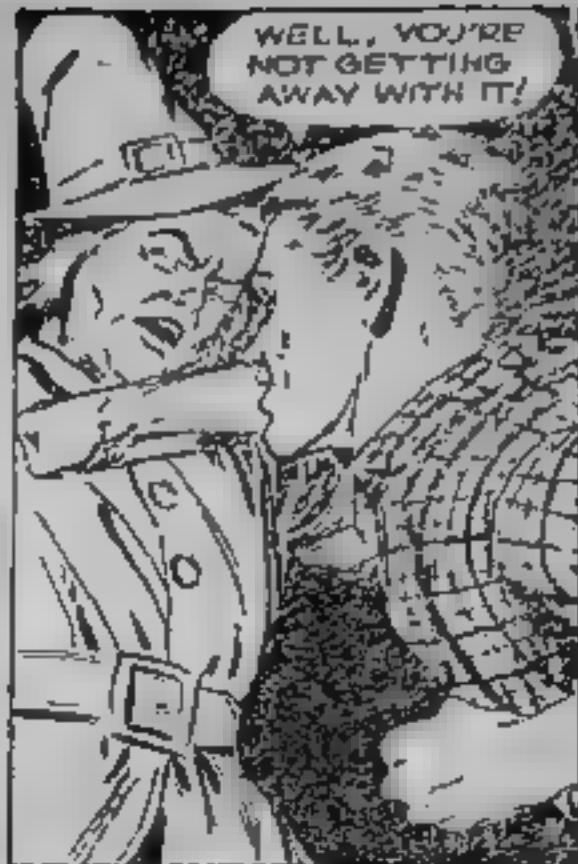
C'MON!

STILL CRAZY!



HE ENTERED THE STANHOPE HOME TO FIND--

GOOD HEAVENS, I'M--TOO LATE!



WELL, YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH IT!



IT'S--YOUR TURN NOW!



QUICK--WE'VE GOT TO ESCAPE!

UGH!



I RECOGNIZED THOSE MEN--THEY'LL SUFFER FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE!

IT WAS--TOO MUCH FOR MY HEART! I SEE NOW--YOU WERE--**RIGHT!** YOU SPOKE THE TRUTH! FOUGHT FOR ME--



THERE'S--A SECRET CUPBOARD UP THERE! PANEL SLIDES ASIDE--YOU'LL FIND--MY GOLD!

I WON'T DISTURB YOUR LAST HOURS BY TRYING TO MAKE OFF WITH IT, LIKE **THEY** DID! BUT I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER--



ONCE AGAIN, THE WHIRLING VORTEX SEEMED TO GRIP HIM—



THIS TIME, HE OPENED HIS EYES TO—

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU FELL OFF THE LADDER, SON! IT WASN'T TOO BAD —YOU WERE ONLY OUT FOR A FEW SECONDS!



MAYBE ONLY A FEW SECONDS—BUT LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GO BACK INTO THE PAST AND FIND OUT WHERE OLD EZRA HID HIS GOLD! IT'S IN THIS VERY ROOM --RIGHT ABOVE THE FIREPLACE!

WHAT FIRE-PLACE?



BUT--BUT THERE WAS ONE--RIGHT THERE--

BETTER GO UP TO BED WHILE I CALL THE DOCTOR! YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN A HARDER BLOW THAN WE REALIZED WHEN YOU FELL!



IF THE FIREPLACE WAS REMOVED DURING THE TWO CENTURIES SINCE I WAS THERE, MAYBE WHOEVER DID IT FOUND THE GOLD--AND IT'S TOO LATE! UNLESS--QUICK, GET ME AN AXE!



SOMETIMES THESE THINGS WERE TAKEN AWAY--BUT SOMETIMES THEY WERE JUST WALLED OVER--AND HERE IT IS! YOU'LL SEE WHERE I CARVED MY INITIALS ON IT!

THAT FIREPLACE MUST HAVE BEEN COVERED UP FOR AT LEAST A CENTURY--AND HE SAYS HE CARVED HIS INITIALS ON IT! HE'S CRAZY!





OH, YEAH?
THEN WHAT
ARE **THESE**?



LET'S SEE--THERE
OUGHT TO BE A PANEL
HERE--**AND
THERE IS!**



GUESS THIS IS THE TONIC
YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS, EH,
DAD? AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE
GET TO KEEP THE OLD
HOUSE
AFTER
ALL!

WELL,
I'LL
BE--!



I DON'T GET
IT! YOU FOUND
A FORTUNE,
BUD--AND YET
YOU LOOK **SAD!**

I GAINED THE GOLD, BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING I
LOST BACK THERE IN
TIME--SOMETHING I'LL
NEVER SEE AGAIN!--I'D
BETTER--ANSWER
THE DOOR--

RRINGG



SORRY TO BUTT IN THIS WAY, BUT I'M A
DESCENDANT OF THE STANHOPE FAMILY--
PROBABLY A 64TH COUSIN! SINCE I WAS IN
TOWN, I THOUGHT
I'D LIKE TO LOOK
OVER THE
OLD HOUSE!

YOU PICKED A FINE
TIME FOR IT--BUT I
GUESS YOU MAY AS
WELL COME IN!



HOLY SMOKE,
IT--IT'S **JUDITH!**

WHY, HOW DID **YOU**
KNOW THAT WAS MY
NAME?



I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM SO
HAPPY AND
EXCITED!

IT'S ALMOST AS IF
HE'S SUDDENLY FOUND
A **SECOND** TREASURE
--AND I THINK HE
HAS!

**EXPLANATION,
PLEASE!**



NO. 3

**THE IDENTICAL
TWINS**

THE BRENT TWINS WERE IDENTICAL IN EVERY WAY! YOU COULDN'T TELL THEM APART...



IT BECAME APPARENT, BEFORE LONG, THAT THEIR SIMILARITY WENT BEYOND THE PHYSICAL...

ACCORDING TO YOUR RECORDS, THOMAS AND EDWIN BRENT HAVE GOTTEN IDENTICAL MARKS IN EVERY SUBJECT... BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

I THOUGHT SO, TOO... BUT EVEN WHEN I SEAT THEM ACROSS THE ROOM FROM EACH OTHER, THEY STILL GIVE IDENTICAL ANSWERS ON EVERY EXAMINATION!

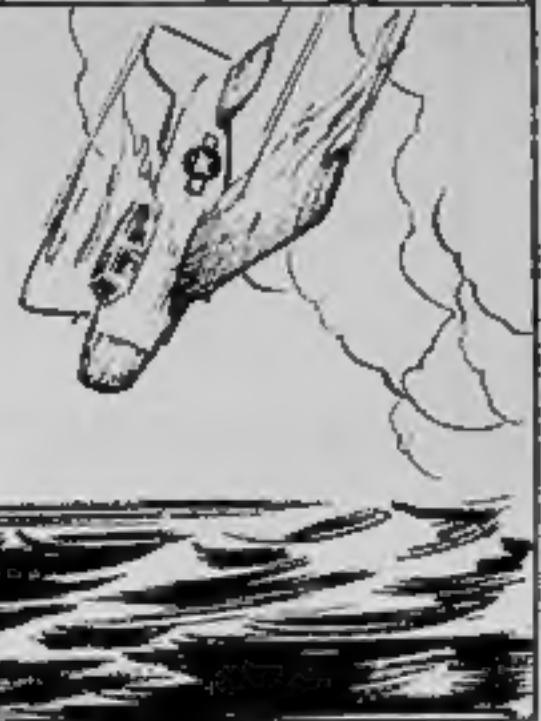


THEY ALWAYS FELL ILL AT THE SAME TIMES WITH THE SAME DISEASES...



...AND ALWAYS RECOVERED SIMULTANEOUSLY!

BUT FATE HAD SOMETHING EVEN STRANGER IN STORE FOR THE BOYS! DURING THE WAR, THEY WERE ATTACHED TO DIFFERENT FIGHTER SQUADRONS... AND ONE DAY TOM WAS SHOT DOWN OVER THE NORTH SEA...



AND 300 MILES AWAY, AT ANOTHER FIGHTER BASE...

BUT THIS IS CRAZY, ED--HOW CAN YOU TELL YOUR TWIN BROTHER'S BEEN SHOT DOWN WHEN WE'VE GOTTEN NO REPORT? AND EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE, WE COULDN'T SEARCH THE WHOLE NORTH SEA FOR HIM!

IT WON'T BE NECESSARY! I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND HIM!



AND SURE ENOUGH...

BUT... BUT HOW'D YOU EVER KNOW HE'D BE HERE?

IT WAS SIMPLE! HE TOLD ME!



CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT, READER?

THE END!

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PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW